Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-077

CONTENTS

21 April 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 April Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Efforts for 'Arafat To Attend Rites 'Fruitless' *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 3
PLO's Qaddumi on 'Arafat Visit to Syria *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Unified National Leadership Issues Call No 14 *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
PNC's Kamal on 'New Bases' for Action *[MENA]* 5
PLO Radio on Deportation Measures, U.S. Veto *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Minister Meets Kuwaiti Counterpart 7
Kuwaiti Departs 20 Apr *[KUNA]* 7
Zambia's Kaunda Visits, Meets Bendjedid *[EL MOUDJAHID 15-16 Apr]* 7
Meeting Held on Cooperation With Libya *[Tripoli Television]* 7
Information Accords Signed 8

Chad

Libyan Military Prisoners Join Opposition 8

Egypt

10 Palestinians Arrested for Dimona Operation *[Voice of the Mountain]* 9
Hijack End Welcomed; Kuwaiti Stand Praised 9
Mubarak Cited on Hijacking, Mideast Peace Process *[KUNA]* 9
Complaints Over Sinai Traded With Israel *[London AL-MAJALLAH 13 Apr]* 10
Israeli Palestinian Deportations Condemned 10
Israel Warned on Policy Toward Palestinians *[London AL-MAJALLAH 13 Apr]* 10
Iranian Missile Attack on Kuwait Condemned 11
Commentary Says 'Iranian Retreat Has Begun' 11
Armed Forces Chief of Staff Returns From U.S. 11
Cabinet Discusses Abu Ghazalah's U.S. Visit 11
'Secret' Military Deal With U.S. Discussed *[AL-SHA'B 12 Apr]* 12
Students Protest Emergency, Land Laws *[AL-SHA'B 12 Apr]* 12

Libya

Officials Refuse Comment on 'Arafat Visit *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 13
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat 13
Jallud 'Strongly' Condemns U.S. Attacks on Iran *[IRNA]* 13

Mauritania

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda Visits 15 Apr 13
Meets President Taya *[AFP]* 13
Makes Statement, Departs 14
Taya Receives Togo Foreign Minister 14

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Praises Kuwait on Hijacking Stand 14
Parties Sign National Government Charter 14
Official Restates Refugee Policy 14
500 'Outlaws' Killed in Al-Nasir City Battle 15
SPLA Claims MiG-23 Shot Down in Juba 15

Tunisia

President Receives Libya's Al-Humaydi 20 Apr 15
Al-Wazir Inquiry Reviews Evidence Against Israel 15
Commentary on Assassination 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf

UK Navy Warns Merchant Ships To Avoid Hormuz *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 17
French Ship Discovers Three Mines in Gulf *[Paris]* 17

Bahrain

Iranian Attacks Against Kuwait, UAE Denounced 17

Kuwait

Government Protests Iranian Missile Attack 17
Amir, Jordanian King Discuss Developments 18
Premier Sends Condolences on Al-Wazir Death 18
Further on Conclusion of Airliner Hijacking 18
Al-'Usaymi Denies Deal 18
Al-'Usaymi on Algerian Efforts 18
Passengers To Return 21 Apr 19
KUNA Hails Government Stand Against 'Blackmail' 19
Paper Praises Shi'ite Statement on Hijacking *[ARAB TIMES 17 Apr]* 20

PDRY

YSP Official Arrives on Visit to Bulgaria 20

Qatar

Government Denounces Khalil al-Wazir Assassination 20

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Jordanian Prime Minister 20
Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives on Visit 20 Apr 21
Received by King Fahd 21
Received by Crown Prince 21
Government Denounces Iranian Missile Attack 21

United Arab Emirates

Envoy, Al-Shariqah Ruler Discuss U.S. Attacks *[IRNA]* 21
Syrian-Palestinian Meeting 'Cause for Optimism' *[AL-BAYAN 19 Apr]* 21

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Congratulates Saddam Husayn on Victory 22
Interior Minister Leaves for Al-Wazir Funeral 22
'Arafat Thanks Salih for Burial Offer 22

IRAQ

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 23
Bombing Moratorium Announced 23
Communique No 3,151 23
Communique No 3,152 24
Missile Strikes Against Qom 24
Papers Review Decision To Halt War of Cities 24
..... 25

ISRAEL

Begin Issues Statement on Self-Rule, Unrest 26
Shamir on Peace Process, U.S. Ties, Elections 26
Shamir on 'Uprising', Political Path, Terrorism 31
Memorandum of Understanding Signed With U.S. 33
USSR Foreign Ministry on Shevardnadze Tour *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Apr]* 34
Agreement Reached With Norway on Heavy Water Use 34
4 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With SLA 34
Bar-Lev Examines Possibilities of War With Arabs *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 20 Apr]* 35
IDF Operating Detention Center Near Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 20 Apr]* 35
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 36
Update on Events 20 Apr 36
1 Killed in 'Violent' Riots 36
Leaflet on Al-Wazir Murderers 36
124 Arabs Killed in Unrest *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Apr]* 36
Israeli Sentenced for Planned Attack on Arabs 37
IDF Role in Territories 'Serious' Financial Toll *[MA'ARIV 17 Apr]* 37
Industry 'Marginally' Affected by Unrest 37
Editorial Calls Al-Wazir Killers 'Foes of Peace' *[AL-FAJR 18 Apr]* 37
Deportations Seen Exacerbating Situation *[AL-FAJR 20 Apr]* 38

JORDAN

Husayn Phones Kuwaiti Amir on Iranian Actions 39
Prime Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia 39
Delivers Message, Returns 39
AL-MUSTAQBAL Cites Al-Rifa'i on Shultz Tour *[16 Apr]* 39
Information Minister on Shultz Remarks, Plan *[Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL 16 Apr]* 41

LEBANON

'Court of the Oppressed' To Try Higgins *[AFP]* 43
Syrian Discusses French Hostages With Kidnappers *[VOL]* 43
Al-Jumayyil Congratulates Kuwait, Algeria *[VOL]* 43
Shi'ite 'Dispute' Cause of Hijacking Failure *[VOL]* 43
Lebanese Forces Plot To Kill Birri Reported 43
'Resistance' Operations Reported in South 44
6 Syrians Reported Killed in Tripoli Blast *[RFL]* 44
Intermittent Clashes on Beirut Lines 20 Apr *[VOL]* 44
Communists, Al-Mahayiri Group Clash in North *[VOL]* 44

SYRIA

PLO Leaders Attend Khalil al-Wazir Funeral 45
Party Official Speaks 45
Qaddumi Addresses Funeral 45
Al-Ahmar Receives Tunisian Destourian Official 46
Commentary Views Israel's 'New Act of Piracy' 46
..... 46

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rebels Capture Town Near Soviet Shindand Base *[AFP]* 48
Soviets Increase Arms Supply to Jalalabad *[AFP]* 48
Mujahidin Official Rejects Geneva Agreements *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Apr]* 48
Law on State Employees Working Relationship 49

Bangladesh

Police Open Fire on Squatters, Wound 26 *[AFP]* 57
President Ershad To Visit Burma 26 Apr 57

India

Gandhi on Relations With Neighbors, Superpowers 58
Gandhi Visit to China Possible This Year *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 13 Apr]* 58
Natwar Singh, UK Minister Discuss 'Extremists' 59
Natwar Singh Comments on Foreign Policy 59
Pant Says No Irregularities Found in Sub Deal 59
Gill Replaces Ribeiro as Punjab Police Chief 59
Task Force To Monitor Drug-Terrorism Connection 59
Soviet-Acquired Helicopters Sent to Siachen *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 15 Apr]* 60
INDIAN EXPRESS on Carlucci's Visit *[8 Apr]* 61

Iran

Envoy to UN Interviewed on U.S. 'Aggression' 61
Envoy to London Warns of Retaliation 'Options' 62
Navy Commander Details 'Unprecedented' Battle 62
Musavi Sees End to War If Saddam Regime Ousted 63
Musavi Says U.S. Navy Increases 'Holy Hatred' 63
Musavi Interviewed on Missile Capability 63
Musavi Sends Message to Aerodynamics Seminar 64
Khamene'i Praises Inaugural Helicopter Flight 64
Briefed on Helicopter Manufacture 65
Khamene'i on Anti-U.S. Moves in Latin America 65
Construction Jihad Condemns U.S. Attacks 65
Islamic Organization Condemns U.S. Attack 65
Commentary Assails Hajj Restrictions 66
PRC Official Cited on U.S. Attack, Toxic Gas 67
Syrian Oil Minister Arrives in Tehran 15 Apr 67
First Round of Oil Talks Noted *[SANA]* 67
Meets With Aqazadeh 16 Apr 67
Mineral Cooperation Discussed 67
Condemns U.S. Aggression 68
Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue 68
'Several' Killed in Tehran 68
Communique No 3,178 68
Missiles Hit Tehran, Esfahan 69
Iraqi Missile Attack on Qom 69
Communique No 3,179 69
Iraqi Kurds Attack Kirkuk Post 69
More Troops Sent to Fronts 69
Tehran Cites AP on Missile Attack on Kuwait 69

Pakistan

Further Details on Junejo Address to Parliament *[AFP]* 70
Discusses Rawalpindi Blast 70
Iranian Official Meets With Ziaul Haq, Junejo *[IRNA]* 71

Sri Lanka

LTTE in Batticaloa Said Ready To Surrender *[Madras DINAMALAR 13 Apr]* 71
Editorial Questions Role of Indian Army *[SUN 6 Apr]* 71
Athulathmudali Sworn In as Trade Minister 72

21 April Middle East and South Asia Review

Ld211240 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq will cease its bombardment of Iranian cities at 2000 GMT 20 April, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio announced. He stressed that the moratorium is contingent upon Iran's adherence to the principles Iraq set out 11 March: the last shelling must be an Iraqi one, as Iran "began the cities war"; Iraq will resume shelling if Iran bombards Iraqi cities, carries out any new aggression against Iraqi territory, or attacks any Arab city; and Iraq reserves the right to strike nonresidential military and economic targets.

Prior to the implementation of the moratorium, announcements carried by Voice of the Masses radio reported that Iraq launched three "Al-Husayn" missiles simultaneously at Tehran, Esfahan, and Shiraz as well as two simultaneously at Qom. An Iraqi military communique cited by the radio stated that the air force also raided Dezful, Hamadan, and Borujerd earlier that day. IRNA reported that a "number" of civilians were killed in the missile attacks on Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz, and Qom. "Several" people were also killed in the Iraqi raids on Dezful, Hamadan, and Borujerd, Tehran radio said.

In the Gulf, the Iraqi Navy sunk two "medium-sized war targets," according to an Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses.

Iran and the Gulf States

Kuwait "strongly protested" to Iran over the latter's missile attack on Kuwaiti territory, warning that this will fuel tension in the region, KUNA reported. A Foreign Ministry source cited by the agency noted that the protest was conveyed to the Iranian charge d'affaires, who was summoned to the ministry in the wake of the attack. For Iran's part, Tehran radio noted that a missile hit a desert region close to Kuwaiti oil fields, but the radio did not say who was responsible for firing it. In another development, the Iranian ambassador to the UAE held talks on recent Gulf developments with the UAE deputy foreign minister and with the ruler of Al-Shariqah, IRNA noted.

A French warship discovered three more mines in the Gulf, destroying one of them, according to Paris radio.

Hijackers' Plans, Destination

KUNA identified Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi as the negotiator who convinced the hijackers to release the hostages, allowing them to leave the plane 30 minutes before the passengers and crew. KUNA reported that Algeria promised the hijackers safe passage to Lebanon or Tehran, while according to AFP they are to go to Beirut via Libya. However, an Algerian official involved in the negotiations said the hijackers are still in Algeria, but he gave no details, KUNA reported.

"We never renounced our demands" for the release of the 17 held in Kuwait, the hijackers stressed before letting the hostages go, APS noted. London's PRESS ASSOCIATION cited a former British hostage released in Mashhad who said the hijackers warned that "this is the first of many hijacks."

Israel: Occupied Territories

A Gaza resident was killed and another seriously wounded when the IDF dispersed a violent demonstration by hundreds of people in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp, Jerusalem radio reported. Palestinian sources stated that 12 people were injured, the radio said, adding that one IDF soldier was injured by a stone. Three Arabs were also injured during violent demonstrations in "Judaea and Samaria," the radio noted.

As for the outcome of the trial of two IDF soldiers who were filmed beating an Arab in Nabulus, HADASHOT reported that they were given suspended jail sentences of 2 and 3 months following a plea bargaining agreement in which charges of maltreatment and attack were changed to "behavior unbecoming an officer" and "disgraceful behavior." A third soldier will be tried separately over the affair.

On the Palestinian side, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast "Call No. 14" on behalf of the PLO and the "unified national leadership of the uprising." The message called for further escalation of struggle against the occupation and outlined a new timetable of action, including "a day of popular anger" on 23 April. It also stressed the importance of fully abiding by the decision not to pay taxes to the Israeli authorities, calling for the immediate resignation of the "active directors" of the Civilian Administration in Gaza, and of those who have not yet resigned from police and tax departments.

PLO, Al-Wazir Funeral

JANA confirmed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's presence in Libya, noting that he was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi 20 April.

Meanwhile, the funeral was held in Damascus of assassinated PLO official Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, who was buried in the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp after a funeral procession through the city, Damascus radio reported. Palestinian officials attending the funeral included Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and the leaders of the PFLP, DFLP, PFLP-GC, and Al-Sa'iqah.

Officials from Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, and the YAR also attended, while Syrian representatives included Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and Regional Command member Sa'id Hammadi, whose speech at the funeral was reported by the radio. Hammadi's remarks included declarations that the conflict with Israel is "a conflict of existence, not of borders," and that any hand which signs a "writ of capitulation with the enemy will be amputated." Qaddumi delivered the PLO's speech at the funeral, Damascus television reported, and he urged "the brothers" to "close their ranks and shake hands."

In a related commentary, Damascus radio contended that all "Zionist and imperialist" attempts to create a rift between Syria and the Palestinian revolution will be "fruitless," adding that Syria's hand is extended to "all true strugglers against Israel and its expansionist plans."

Without directly mentioning Yasir 'Arafat, the radio maintained that Syria "has never had personal quarrels with, or reservations regarding certain persons." Syria sets "no conditions for anyone who wants to be close to it," except that he should faithfully adhere to Palestinian rights and "refuse to be drawn into processes, policies, and plans which aim to enforce surrender, humiliation, and disgrace on the Arabs."

As for the progress of the inquiry into Al-Wazir's assassination, Tunis radio reported that it has evidence which confirms that the assassins arrived and departed by sea and that they used vehicles hired by three people traveling on Lebanese passports. Tunisia has authorized that international warrants be issued for the arrest of these three, the radio added.

Lebanon

Higgins 'Trial'—The organization of the "Oppressed on Earth" announced its intention to try Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins in a "court of the oppressed" on charges of spying on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, Voice of Lebanon radio reported 21 April. The announcement was made in a statement to a news agency, accompanied by a photograph of the U.S. hostage.

Clash in South—Four "terrorists" and one SLA soldier were killed in a 20 April clash on the edge of Israel's "security zone," Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the infiltrators fled toward Maydun. Beirut radio said that Israeli artillery shelled Maydun and another village in the western Al-Biqa'.

Palestinian Affairs

Efforts for 'Arafat To Attend Rites 'Fruitless'

NC201717 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The body of Palestinian official Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was buried in Damascus today in the absence of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and PNC Chairman Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was represented by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party. [passage omitted]

A Palestinian in Tunisia has disclosed that Libya had sent Libyan official Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi to Tunis, where he attempted to get approval for the PLO chairman to travel to Damascus to attend Abu Jihad's funeral. However, the contacts among Tripoli, Damascus, and the PLO proved fruitless.

PLO's Qaddumi on 'Arafat Visit to Syria

JN211249 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, who led the Palestinian delegation that visited Damascus to participate in the funeral of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], today said the platform has not yet been prepared for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Syria. However, the two sides are in contact in this regard, he added.

Qaddumi said that Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to any country has a political significance, but his visit to Damascus has an extraordinary political importance. Therefore, he said, all details should be discussed to guarantee the success of such visit.

Replying to a question on whether the Palestinian leader has set conditions to visit Syria, Qaddumi said: Brothers do not set conditions to meet each other, but it is necessary to discuss all details to exclude any differences with the objective of reaching an agreement on all points. The issue is not to know whether 'Arafat will leave for Syria soon. The important thing is that this visit should have an objective; it must not be a courtesy visit. Abu 'Ammar is a leader of a revolution and is directly responsible for implementing its policy.

The Palestinian diplomatic chief added there are no differences between the Palestinian and Syrian leaders on the major pan-Arab issues. However, each side has its own means to achieve its objectives.

Concluding, Qaddumi said: Our presence in Damascus is bright proof of the progress we have achieved to restore our relations. The road is now paved for normalizing relations.

Earlier, Qaddumi participated in a meeting in Damascus that included among the Palestinian leaders DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah; delegations from the Fatah Movement and PFLP; Khalid al-Fahum; and a number of independent Palestinian leaders to discuss practical steps to begin meetings with the Syrian leadership.

The DFLP sources said that meetings between the Palestinian leaders are aimed at restoring militant Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Unified National Leadership Issues Call No 14

JN201934 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1612 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Call No 14 issued by "the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the Occupied Territories;" dated 20 April—place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call No 14. No voice can rise above the voice of the uprising, no voice can rise above the voice of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO. Call of the martyr commander, teacher, and symbol Brother Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad.

O masses of our struggling people everywhere, O brothers and comrades of hero martyr Abu Jihad, O masses of the brave uprising: The hand of the neo-Nazism and neofascism of the Zionist entity has committed another crime to be added to its deplorable daily crimes against our heroic Palestinian people, their leadership, and the symbol of their struggle the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people, in a desperate attempt to abort the glorious uprising. The fascist, racist entity is now sinking deep into the sea of chaste blood which was spilled in a legitimate challenge and struggle aimed at wresting our people's national rights.

O honest son of Palestine, O symbol of challenge, struggle, and sacrifices for the sacred revolutionary action: Your body has fallen and the bullets of rancor have penetrated your chaste flesh, but you will remain a teacher and inspirer of our new struggling generations until victory. You will remain alive in the Palestinian hills and in the hearts and minds of Palestinian children, old men, women, boys, and girls.

We pledge to you, O symbol of martyrs and teacher of generations, that we will be true to our vow and will continue to struggle and to fight until we realize all of our people's aims and aspirations. Your blood and the blood of our martyrs will never be in vain. Either we court martyrdom or we will raise the banner for which you devoted your life over holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state. It will be the same pledge and vow until we realize victory or court martyrdom on the path of freedom and independence.

O masses of our struggling people, the fascist Zionist entity is escalating its repressive measures represented by the policy of assassination, death, and collective punishment, by imposing an economic siege around our cities, camps, and villages, and by decisons to deport, blow up houses, impose long curfews, close off areas, break our people's limbs and bones, use poison gas bombs, storm houses by night, and destroy people's property in total disregard of all international conventions and charters and human rights principles.

The Zionist enemy policy demonstrates the extent of the enemy's confusion and the painful blows which the brave uprising is dealing to its invasion forces and its economy, which is sustained by sucking the blood of our people.

O great masses, more cohesion and unity, more blows to the sagging body of the fascist entity and its forces using stones, Molotov cocktails, iron balls, bows and arrows, slingshots, fireballs, and everything you have. Let the earth burn under the feet of the invaders. Let the earth burn under the feet of the killers. Let us retaliate against the killers of our people with all our resources and be true to the blood of our symbolic leader Abu Jihad and all of our honest martyrs.

O our steadfast, persevering people, you are continuing your glorious, splendid march on the road of struggle and fighting with your great resources and escalating your brave, giant uprising. You are preparing the firm, unshakable ground to realize comprehensive civil disobedience. Through its extensive political moves, our great leadership is realizing great achievements and winning growing support for our triumphant people's revolution, with the creative support and joint moves of the friendly powers led by the political moves of the PLO and the friendly USSR on the road to convening a full-powered international conference in which Palestinians will be represented by an independent delegation to affirm our national legitimate rights to return, to have self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state as expounded by the majority of the world states.

These achievements were the fruit of our glorious uprising. Therefore, escalate the struggle against the occupation, its bodies, and its agents, particularly the appointed municipal committees. Expand and form new people's committees, hit groups, and committees for areas, committees of guards, and committees for supplies. Have more cohesion and unify national militant efforts in all areas. Improve the application of all the instructions mentioned in the uprising programs stipulated in previous statements. Continue to boycott Zionist products that can be replaced by local products and everything that you can do without.

Let the merchants commit themselves to boycotting Zionist goods. Continue to boycott the suckers of our blood, the customs and tax departments. Let those who have not resigned from the police and tax departments do so. We call on you to immediately join your colleagues. Do not cover yourselves by taking leave because the people are alert and their hand will reach all those who deviate from the march of the triumphant uprising.

O masses of our glorious uprising, in tune with the uprising program, we ask you to observe the following:

1. We stress the importance of full commitment to the decision not to pay taxes to the suckers of our people's blood.

2. We highly appreciate the role of our people, our agricultural and popular committees and area committees, for their response to the call of the land by practicing planting at home and in plots through agricultural cooperatives. We call on all of our committees and people to expand and entrench agriculture and cooperatives until they encompass all areas in our beloved land.

3. We call on our masses and people to continue to practice rationalization and to reduce their spending during the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of sacrifice and cooperation.

4. We call on our workers to completely boycott the Zionist settlements.

5. We call for allowing room for action for all the health committees, extending assistance to our people in all areas, and increasing the number of training courses for first aid, preventive medicine, and health education. We ask the brother doctors to reduce their charges in support of our uprising masses.

6. Out of our commitment to the PLO Executive Committee decision to support those who resign from the police and tax departments and our brave workers who boycott the Zionist settlements, the popular and other committees will extend assistance to all of them.

7. We salute the brave masses of the Golan Heights, affirm our joint struggle, and greet the Palestinian and Arab masses inside the Zionist entity and in the Arab states for their support to our uprising. Let us all move against occupation and injustice. We call on the Arab governments to release the Palestinian and Arab detainees in their prisons to serve our people's uprising.

8. We call for the immediate resignation of the active directors of the Civil Adminstration Department in the Gaza Strip.

9. We stress the need for the ICRC and UNRWA to shoulder their responsibilities in providing food and medicine to the besieged cities, villages, and camps subjected to curfews.

O masses of our giant uprising, out of our commitment to the struggle program of the Unified National Leadership, the fighting arm of the PLO, we call for the following:

1. Observing Fridays and Sundays as days of prayer for the soul of our symbol of martyrdom [Al-Wazir] and all of the martyrs of Palestine. Stage symbolic marches and funerals during which black banners and Palestinian flags will be raised.

2. Observing 23 April 1988, 1 week after the martyrdom of Commander Abu Jihad, as a day of popular anger in which all militant functionaries will participate.

3. Observing 28 April 1988 as a day for deportees. It will be a day of total strike and militant action in solidarity with our deported strugglers and in condemnation of the arbitrary deportation policy.

4. The other days will be days of anger and escalation of the uprising as a denunciation of the policy of killing and assassination, blowing up of houses, the imposition of long curfews, the killing of children with poison gas, and the arbitary, collective arrests in which all functionaries will participate in a marked militant manner.

We call on the popular bodies and various active committees to implement all militant activities and employ all means and resources in implementation of the Unified National Leadership's decision to observe the days from 22 to 29 April 1988 as days of Palestinian anger in which painful blows will be dealt to the Zionist entity, its forces, and the herds of its settlers and days of escalating struggle in the face of the killers of our martyrs.

O our masses, O brothers of our martyr leader Abu Jihad and of all the honest martyrs, more sacrifices, more efforts, more national unity and solidarity, more exploitation of resources and efforts. Throw more sacred stones and Molotov cocktails. Deal harsh blows to the sagging body of the fascist entity. Let the earth shake under the feet of the invaders. The waterfall of Palestinian blood will continue.

We pledge to our hero martyr Abu Jihad and all of our honest martyrs that the day will come when our Kalashnikovs will sing in every area of Palestine and in every village, camp, and city to mark the end of the Zionist fascism and to enable our people to reap as fruits their legitimate national rights under the PLO leadership. The pledge and vow will be the same: Either victory or martyrdom for the sake of a free, independent Palestine. We will emerge victorious.

[Signed] The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the Occupied Territory

[Dated] 20 April 1988

PNC's Kamal on 'New Bases' for Action

NC201130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—PNC member Sa'id Kamal has stated that the PLO will hold a meeting in the near future to discuss the outcome of the visit to Moscow by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In particular, it will study the principles and bases proposed by the Soviet leader for attaining a just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem.

In a statement to MENA, Kamal said this meeting is expected to be followed by visits to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia by high-level Palestinian delegations. They will hold consultations on the current requirements for the implementation of the Fes summit resolutions on the Palestinian and Middle East problems. [passage omitted]

Sa'id Kamal said the fact that Israel has admitted the crime of assassinating Palestinian struggler Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, is a clear confession of its terrorist practices, as well as proof of its difficult position as a result of the uprising. [passage omitted]

Kamal asserted that Abu Jihad's role in the Palestinian struggle will be a torchlight for the thousands of strugglers against the Israeli occupation who have been created by the uprising.

The Palestinian official believes that the PLO leaders will re-evaluate Palestinian policies on the struggle against Israeli occupation. This, Kamal concluded, will be done through the establishment of new bases for Palestinian action, given the current political conditions affecting the Palestinian cause, on both Arab and international levels.

PLO Radio on Deportation Measures, U.S. Veto

JN210611 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1646 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Only a few hours before the martyrdom of the great leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the United States vetoed a draft resolution which the other UN Security Council members had unanimously supported. The draft resolution called on the Zionist entity to halt its oppressive and terrorist practices against the people of the heroic uprising. This draft resolution also condemned the recurrent violations of human rights that are acknowledged by UN conventions.

One of the most important reasons for the formulation of this draft resolution was the deportation by the criminal Zionist entity of eight Palestinian strugglers of our heroic

people from their homeland, the homeland of the heroic Palestinian uprising. This is a new blatant Zionist violation of UN laws and norms.

However, the U.S. Administration has chosen as always to depart from international consensus. It supported the Zionist atrocities. By doing so, it has shown how fickle its claim is to champion human rights and international conventions governing them.

Armed with this U.S. veto, the Zionist entity deported eight more Palestinian strugglers from their homeland yesterday. Thus, the barbaric Zionist enemy has pursued its course, which conflicts with international law and norms, without looking back. Why should it look back? The Zionist enemy's policy and strategy are in line with Zionist ideology, which is based on racism, aggression, and barbarism with the objective of canceling the other party, the Palestinians, because they own the land from which Zionist belligerence is proceeding toward its known goals.

Why should it look back with such an ally as the United States? The United States has the power to defy international legitimacy. How long will U.S. policy pursue this hostility to the Palestinian people and cause?

It is not the Palestinian people who are asking this. The Palestinian people are replying through their uprising. It is the world at large that is posing the question while witnessing the Zionist crimes and the Palestinians' heroic feats on the land of the uprising. The Zionist crimes expose the fallacy of the Zionist occupation and reveal its barbaric, racist, and aggressive nature. The Palestinian feats demonstrate the most splendid human and national actions for the attainment of the noblest objectives.

Yes, the world at large in terms of institutions, governments, and public opinion is wondering about the usefulness of this U.S. defense of the Zionist crimes and this U.S. involvement in the quagmire of these Zionist atrocities. These atrocities are committed not only against the Palestinians but also against the international conscience and legitimacy and against humanitarian norms when viewed against the backdrop of the harm the Zionist occupation inflicts both on the Palestinians and all mankind.

If [words indistinct] with the Palestinian uprising and with the legitimate, just, and noble objectives it seeks to achieve, one assumes that the international community should take to account the Zionist atrocities, which harm the ethics of this epoch and which violate the principles, norms, and laws of international legitimacy. This also calls for opening the doors of denunciation, condemnation, and pressure by the international community on the U.S. Administration for its complete support for the licentious Zionist barbarism.

The heroic Palestinian uprising will continue to achieve its sacred objectives. It will continue with its epics and with its war against the Zionist oppression. By doing this, it carries out an action that will save the Palestinians from the occupation and mankind from this force of darkness running against the course of civilization.

This is the national and humanitarian duty of the uprising. The world at large must also act in a manner commensurate with the need to confront the Zionist beast, which is wantonly undermining the principles, conscience, and ethics of the age. The first of such acts is to save the United States from the Zionist control of its conscience.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Meets Kuwaiti Counterpart

LD210402 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Apr

[Text] In Algeria, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, conferred with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Mr Sa'ud al-'Usaymi. The Kuwaiti foreign minister expressed the gratitude of the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people and their thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people for the efforts exerted by Algeria for the sake of reaching a happy and peaceful solution for the issue.

Kuwaiti Departs 20 Apr

LD201702 Kuwait KUNA in English 1627 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, April 20 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi Wednesday left here for home after taking part in the negotiations that ended the crisis of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner. Two members of the Kuwaiti delegation were on board with Al-'Usaymi.

Asked about the fate of the eight hijackers who disappeared probably before the release of the hostages, Al-'Usaymi said that he does not have any idea, noting that "all I know is that were good efforts and good offices made by our Algerian brothers that led to the release of the captives." Al-'Usaymi, in response to a question why the hijackers gave in today, said "I don't have any idea."

About the possibility of releasing the 17 prisoners in Kuwait, Al-'Usaymi, whose way to the jet was completely blocked by reporters, said that the Kuwaiti Government issued a statement in this regard. Al-'Usaymi was seen off by the Algerian Foreign Ministry official Mohamed Taher who was the negotiator during the eight-day ordeal here. Taher said the hijackers are still here but he did not elaborate.

Zambia's Kaunda Visits, Meets Bendjedid

PM201306 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15-16 Apr 88 p 3

[APS report: "Exchange of Views"]

[Text] Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Zambian head of state and OAU chairman, made a working visit to Algiers on Thursday morning. When he arrived at Houari Boumedienne International Airport, the Zambian president was welcomed by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN general secretary. After being presented with a bouquet of flowers by a young girl, Mr Kaunda greeted members of the political office and the government.

Mr Kaunda, accompanied by President Chadli Bendjedid, listened to the two countries' national anthems before reviewing a detachment of the republican guard which formed the guard of honor. Algeria's guest then greeted members of the African diplomatic corps in Algiers.

In a statement made in the VIP lounge, Mr Kaunda said that: "This visit is part of the second phase of my mission; the first phase took place in Brussels, where I met with the UN secretary general with whom I also discussed the painful subject of the Gulf war."

Mr Kaunda added: "I had talks with the Moroccan king yesterday, and I had a final meeting with him this morning, and tomorrow I will meet with SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz and the Mauritanian leaders." The results of this mission will be conveyed to the UN organization by UN Under Secretary General Abderrahim Farah, Mr Kaunda added.

Shortly before leaving Algeria, President Kaunda said that he had come "to Algiers to inform President Chadli Bendjedid about my talks with the Moroccan king in Marrakesh." After stressing that his talks and exchanges of views in Algiers had gone smoothly, the Zambian president said that he was due to visit Tindouf, whence he will travel to the SDAR to meet with Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz. "We will leave the West Sahara for Nouakchott tomorrow morning for talks with the Mauritanian leaders," he added.

Meeting Held on Cooperation With Libya

LD121249 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] A meeting took place today as part of the continuing work of the first session of the committee that was formed for unionist cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria in the field of information. Bachir Rouis, [Algerian] minister of information and alternate member of the Political Bureau, and affirmed at the opening speech the importance of the information organs in deepening unionist cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He called on the information media to act as a single group and devote all the resources at its disposal to serve unity between the two fraternal countries.

The secretary of the Libyan Arab brotherhood bureau affirmed in his speech the importance of unifying the information media and promoting it to a level that would enable it to confront the imperialist colonial cultural invasion. The session will debate the development and strengthening of cooperation between the two news agencies, the press, and the radio and television services and joint production and publishing, information, training and qualification—all this in the framework of the unionist steps between the two fraternal countries.

Information Accords Signed

LD140601 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 13 Apr 88

[Text] The minutes and several cooperation agreements on information were signed this evening after the meeting of the Algerian-Libyan commission. The signing of these documents took place in the presence of Mr Bachir Rouis, the minister of information, and his Libyan counterpart.

Chad

Libyan Military Prisoners Join Opposition

AB181352 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Sixteen officers of the Libyan Armed Forces, taken prisoner during the various battles between Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's forces and the Chadian National Armed Forces in the northern part of the country, gave a news conference at the conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ndjamena yesterday. The leader of these 16 officers, including colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, and second lieutenants, is Colonel Khalifa Belkacem Haftar, commander of the Ouadi Doum military zone, who was taken prisoner during the liberation of that base by the FANT.

On his own behalf and on behalf of all the Libyan prisoners, Col Khalifa announced their new allegiance to the National Front for the Salvation of Libya [FNSL], a nationalist movement opposed to Al-Qadhdhafi's regime. For more than 1 hour, in the presence of some 20 Chadian and Chinese journalists as well as journalists from the Libyan opposition press, the 16 Libyan officers talked about their reasons for joining the group. [passage omitted] Dr Abou Oumar, representative of the FNSL in charge of coordination with the press, made an introductory speech in which he expressed the deep consideration the FNSL feels for the Chadian people and their government for their support in the struggle waged by the Libyan people against Al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted] Let us listen to Dr Abou Oumar talking to reporters last night:

[Begin recording in Arabic fading into French translation] In the name of God, the merciful. Gentlemen: It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the FNSL to this news conference, and I thank you for accepting my invitation. I would like, first of all, to express our deepest consideration to the brotherly people of Chad and the Chadian Government led by President Hissein Habre for everything they have done and will do for us in the future. We also thank them for their decision in principle to support the Libyan people's struggle to get rid of the Al-Qadhdhafi regime and regain their freedom and the sovereignty of their own land.

With all our gratitude and consideration, we praise President Habre's attitude toward our brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Libyan Armed Forces captured during the battles that have taken place on Chadian territory and for deciding not to consider them as prisoners of war but as revolutionaries and militants fighting in defense of their people's cause, and determined to overthrow the Al-Qadhdhafi regime, a regime which is harming historical and brotherly relations between the Libyan and Chadian peoples, a regime that incites war and sedition between our two countries which has resulted in death and destruction on both sides. Gentlemen, I have the honor to introduce to you 16 officers of the Libyan Armed Forces who will hereby confirm in front of you, and the world at large, their decision to join the FNSL and their pledge to continue the Front's struggle to accomplish the Libyan people's objective of ousting the Al-Qadhdhafi regime and regaining their right to choose their own leaders and government. [end recording]

It was then the turn of Col Khalifa Belkacem Haftar to address the reporters. On his own behalf and that of all the Libyan officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers taken prisoner in Chad, Col Khalifa announced their decision to oppose the Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi regime and affirmed their new allegiance to their brothers of the FNSL, who are fighting against the terrorist regime of Al-Qadhdhafi. Col Khalifa also stressed his determination to pursue the struggle waged by the FNSL until their objective is attained. We now invite you to listen to the statement of Col Khalifa Belkacem Haftar:

[Begin recording in Arabic fading into French translation] In the name of God, the merciful. Gentlemen: It is my pleasure to warmly receive you, and I wish to thank you for attending this news conference. It is also my pleasure to declare before you and to the entire world, and on behalf of brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, and on my own behalf, our collective decision finally to oppose Al-Qadhdhafi's regime, and declare our new allegiance to our brothers of the FNSL, who are waging a Libyan national struggle against a terrorist, barbaric, and arbitrary regime. In the same way, we declare to the entire world our decision and our determination to pursue the struggle that the FNSL is waging until the accomplishment of its objectives, which are essentially these: 1) The overthrow of Al-Qadhdhafi's regime, 2) the opportunity to the Libyan people to choose the regime that corresponds to their own will so as to establish constitutional institutions capable of ensuring its legitimacy, sovereignty, and the rule of law.

Gentlemen, our decision is motivated by a number of factors and circumstances, some of which are the direct result of Al-Qadhdhafi's rule since he came to power on 1 September 1969. His rule for the past 18 years has been marked by arbitrariness, terrorism, injustice, chaos, and senseless decisions. During these years, Al-Qadhdhafi

has worked for the destruction of the human and material potentials of the country, has soiled the reputation of Libya, and has (?antagonized) all the friendly and brotherly countries and people, and even the entire world.

Among these factors, there are some which concern us directly as soldiers and officers in the Libyan Armed Forces. During his rule, Al-Qadhdhafi has [words indistinct]. He has also rejected and even eliminated the best of the country's men. He then crowned all these acts by engaging his forces in battles that have nothing to do with the interest of the fatherland. The result of all these acts is the loss of thousands of people, who are either dead, wounded, or taken prisoner.

After we had been taken prisoner, we found in our Chadian brothers a great deal of understanding and admiration for the realities in Chad. This gave us the opportunity to review our position and frankly discuss with them the need to liberate our country and save our people from the arbitrary regime of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, restore the reputation of our fatherland and our armed forces, and restore our military honor.

We have decided to join our brothers, who have been waging a patriotic struggle for several years for the same reasons. I am referring to our militant companions of the FNSL. We are joining them to pursue this struggle until the absolute accomplishment of our objectives.

Before concluding this statement, I would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to President El Hadj Hissein Habre, the Government of Chad, and the brotherly people of Chad, who have bestowed so much hospitality on us, and have made it easy for us to make this decision. Finally, we call on all peace- and justice-loving countries and peoples of the world to support our cause, which is the just cause of the Libyan people, and to take the necessary position toward Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi whose presence is not only a danger for Libya and its people, but also a danger for security, peace, and (?sovereignty) of all countries and peoples of the world.

Victory for the Libyan people [words indistinct]! [end recording]

Egypt

10 Palestinians Arrested for Dimona Operation

NC201325 (Clandestine) Voice of The Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Egyptian authorities have arrested 10 Palestinians residing in Cairo and Alexandria and accused them of assisting the three Palestinians who carried out the Dimona operation last month. The Liberties Committee of the Egyptian Lawyers Association has sent a number of its members to adopt the case of the detainees and to defend them in Egyptian courts.

Hijack End Welcomed; Kuwaiti Stand Praised

NC201413 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the end of the tragedy of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane and the release of the civilian hostages on board. A Foreign Ministry official stated today that Egypt reiterates its condemnation of terrorism as a method of achieving political objectives and praises fraternal Kuwait's policy in not submitting to terrorism and rejecting the terrorists' demands. The official emphasized that Kuwait's adherence to basic principles in this regard and its rejection of the terrorists' demands has demonstrated to everyone the failure of the terrorism policy in attaining its aims.

Mubarak Cited on Hijacking, Mideast Peace Process

LD210908 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 21 (KUNA)—President Husni Mubarak of Egypt has condemned, in a press interview here, the hijack of the Kuwaiti airliner as an act of terrorism which enemies of the Arab world would exploit to project Arabs as terrorists and barbarians.

"This act is rejected as it gives a bad impression about Arabs. The hijackers used murder and terror which would tarnish the Arab image. We are accused abroad of being barbaric so why commit this act?" The Egyptian leader said in an interview appearing tomorrow in the weekly ALYAKADA [as received].

In the wide-ranging interview, President Mubarak lamented the current state of Arab affairs and urged Arab governments to sink differences and reach a minimum of understanding in the face of foreign challenges. "We Arabs need to follow the example set by Europe and the European Common Market, which struck a minimum of cooperation despite having divergent views," the Egyptian leader went on.

Replying to a question, Mubarak stressed that Arab governments should draft measures in support of the Palestinian popular uprising and its goal of achieving the legitimate national Palestinian rights. Mubarak asserted that the Palestinian people had suffered a lot under the yoke of the protracted Israeli occupation which created a feeling of desperation, particularly among the young generation.

Stressing that peace is becoming urgent more than ever, Mubarak argued that Israel should stop settlement activities in occupied Arab lands, and this should be followed by granting the political rights of the Palestinian people. A third step, Mubarak added, would be holding an international conference attended by all parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute and its core, the Palestinian problem.

Mubarak lashed out at Israel Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection of the peace conference, which the Egyptian president stressed serves as a good platform for reaching a settlement. Asked about the thorny issue of Palestinian representation, Mubarak was categoric that the Arab world would reach a formula for the Palestinian delegation to the conference.

"We are telling them you first agree on the form of the international conference and leave the ball in the Arab court. For we will definitely reach agreement on a formula on Palestinian representation at the conference," Mubarak said.

Replying to another query, the Egyptian leader said theoretically he is supportive of the notion of an independent Palestinian state if that was possible, but stated he is not very optimistic about the likelihood of achieving such a goal in the near future.

"First we would recover our land. But if we were able to directly attain an independent (Palestinian) state then this is much welcome. But being realistic I do not want to race against events as this would create many complications," Mubarak added.

Concluding President Mubarak pointed out that the Arab defense pact covers cooperation not only in defense, but provides for cooperation in economic and political spheres. "If there is no economic cooperation, then no-one could contribute to defense efforts. We are required to have a clear strategy, and this matter is of utmost importance," Mubarak said.

Complaints Over Sinai Traded With Israel

PM191601 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13 Apr 88 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Israeli Accusations Concerning Egypt"]

[Text] In a cable sent by the Israeli Foreign Ministry to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Israel has accused Egypt of exploiting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the Israeli Army's preoccupation in confronting it to improve its military positions in Sinai, thereby contravening the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In its letter, Israel has urged that the violations be rectified, stating that if they are not, then it will be compelled to request U.S. intervention in its capacity as a partner in the peace process to inspect the Egyptian military movements in Sinai. In addition, it has shown a readiness for a similar inspection of the Israeli forces' positions on the joint borders to ascertain its commitment to the Camp David and peace treaty clauses.

For its part, Egypt has informed Israel that the claim is groundless and that it will not request a similar inspection from them. Egyptian sources have described the letter as one of numerous attempts by Israel to distract Egypt, with side issues that are groundless, from the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories.

Moreover, Israel has informed Egypt of its annoyance over reports concerning the use of the phrase "eastern front", instead of the phrase "borders", by Egyptian military officials in press statements when speaking about field trips made by Army commanders.

Israeli Palestinian Deportations Condemned

NC201514 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has condemned Israel's deportation of eight Palestinians from the occupied territories, and regrets Israel's continued pursuit of this policy despite the realization that it violates international charters, norms, and agreements.

A responsible source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said today that Israel's continued pursuit of this policy—which has been condemned by the whole world—does not serve peace. He added that sound logic dictates halting these provocative measures and replacing them with another constructive policy. This would establish confidence among the various concerned parties in the region which Egypt is seeking to bring together around the negotiating table under UN auspices and in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

Israel Warned on Policy Toward Palestinians

PM201305 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13 Apr 88 p 11

[Unattributed report: "New Interpretation of Peace Agreement"]

[Text] Egypt has informed Israel that any action it implements, such as expelling or deporting Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza Strip, will be regarded as an aggressive act and as more extreme reaction to the Palestinian people's uprising.

Egypt emphasized that more of these measures would mean that Israel was abandoning the practical response to peace efforts and confirms that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty cannot alone establish peace in the region. As far as Egypt is concerned, the treaty is only a step on the road to a comprehensive peace. It stressed that Israel's rejection of a comprehensive peace negates the aim of the treaty and destroys its foundation.

Egypt also confirmed that its aim was not only to settle the Israeli-Egyptian conflict and that, if Israel holds that view, then it is mistaken. Egypt took the step because circumstances dictated it at the time, but Egypt, despite that and despite the circumstances, never lost the view that the treaty was just one step.

Egypt pointed out that the core of the conflict is the Palestinian right to self-determination and that there is not a single Egyptian—ruler or ruled—who accepts that the situation should continue as it is. Egypt also pointed out that this conflict will strengthen the Arab and Egyptian view that the treaty has failed to establish a comprehensive peace, which means that it is necessary to make efforts to establish peace by any means.

Iranian Missile Attack on Kuwait Condemned
NC201425 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has strongly condemned Iran's acts of aggression against fraternal Kuwait, particularly the Iranian missile attack against it this morning. An official source at the Foreign Ministry stated that Egypt had more than once in the past urged Iran to pursue a peaceful policy and not to step up its provocative measures against its regional neighbors. The official said that, despite all this, Iran recently mined international waterways and attacked oil installations, which has resulted in a serious deterioration of the situation in the Gulf. The Foreign Ministry's statement emphasized that the unjustified Iranian provocation against the peaceful State of Kuwait constitutes a serious escalation and a direct challenge to peace in the region.

Commentary Says 'Iranian Retreat Has Begun'
NC191525 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "The Threat of the Latest Escalation of the Gulf War to the Region and the Entire World"]

[Text] In the most serious escalation of the Gulf war to date, the fighting arena has witnessed a heated confrontation between the United States and Iran. The U.S. fleet bombarded two Iranian oil rigs and sank an Iranian vessel in an act of retaliation for Iran's hostile acts against the United States, the most recent of which was the damaging of the U.S. frigate "Samuel Robert" last week. Iran's response to this U.S. attack took the form of shelling a U.S.-run oil rig in Al-Shariqah in the UAE and bombarding a British oil convoy and a U.S.-flagged rescue ship. This escalation came as part of a series of developments in the Iraq-Iran war operations theater, during which Iraq succeeded in liberating the Al-Faw Peninsula and restoring its control over it.

The escalation also came as a reply to Iran's refusal to respond to international and regional overtures and Iraq's peace initiatives to end the war, as well as its refusal to observe UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Iranians pursued their maneuvers to circumvent the resolution and wasted every opportunity to implement it. Indeed, they continued their attacks on population centers, causing further casualties among civilians, old men, women, and children. In addition, the Iranians leveled accusations at Kuwait and the United States. Then, not satisfied with all this, they again resorted to mining the Gulf waters, which led to the damaging of the U.S. frigate.

Hence, the facts of the matter prove that Iran is fully responsible for the escalation because of its refusal to respond to the international community's call for an end to the war, its persistent provocation of the international community, and its continued attacks on Iraqi cities and targets.

Notwithstanding international reaction to this escalation and the fact that world opinion generally tends to support the U.S. attacks on Iranian targets, the escalation could pose new dangers to the region. It is sufficient to note in this respect the Iranian attack on the UAE. This attack constitutes an expansion of the war and the introduction of new factors that are totally unconnected with what is happening on the battlefronts. There is also the possibility that the war's recent developments might pull other Arab parties into the fighting, which in turn may mean even further intervention from parties outside the region. In such an event, the danger would spread from the region to the entire world.

Iran's rulers have again resorted to mining the Gulf waters in an attempt to cause friction with the United States and cover up Iraq's military successes against Iran, the most recent of which was the recapture of the Al-Faw Peninsula. This is an indication that the Iranian retreat has begun and that Iran's present attempt is its last effort. It is also an indication that the signs of its waning strike force are looming somewhere ahead. Will the Iranian rulers accept an honorable peace, or will they insist on continuing the war until they suffer a humiliating defeat?

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Returns From U.S.
NC210600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2213 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo tonight after a 2-week visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Abu Ghazalah's U.S. Visit
NC161434 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi presided over a cabinet session today. During the session cabinet members discussed a report on the outcome of Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah's recent visit to the United States, according to a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He noted that Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's visit was in response to instruction by the political leadership to follow up and discuss a number of topics concerning Egyptian-U.S. military

cooperation. During the visit an agreement was reached to manufacture the M-1 tank in Egypt and to maintain the current sum of U.S. military grants to Egypt. A review and discussion of the armament plan for the Armed Forces in accordance with the protocol governing this issue were also conducted during the visit.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah briefed the cabinet on the terms of the Egyptian-U.S. memorandum of understanding, which gives Egypt the privilege accorded to friendly states: permission to export commodities and services to the United States, provided they meet the specifications needed for international tenders. This will promote Egyptian exports, commodities, and services. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stressed that this memorandum does not require any commitments on Egypt's part. Furthermore, it allows for activities that serve the Egyptian economy and enrich scientific research on the development and use of weapons, he said.

The information minister added that the cabinet had been briefed by Interior Minister Zaki Badr on the domestic situation. The interior minister noted his ministry's efforts to maintain security and stability in accordance with the law and to confront any attempts to violate the law. He briefed the cabinet on the use of weapons and all other means of violence by some extremists against cultural and artistic activities on university campuses or in cultural halls and their attempts to prevent wedding parties.

The information minister added that the cabinet had endorsed the Interior Ministry's policy of confronting all attempts to violate citizens' freedom. The debate among the cabinet members emphasized that such attempts by a few extremists must be firmly confronted to preserve Egypt's civilized, Islamic, and cultural prestige. The cabinet also stressed the need to concentrate on expanding dialogue, as this can create a positive atmosphere for reforming the course of this extremist minority. The cabinet praised the role played by clergymen and the Awqaf ministry in this respect. The interior minister also briefed the cabinet on the amount of weapons and ammunition seized in the country and the ministry's activities in combating narcotics and preventing the hoarding or smuggling of basic commodities.

'Secret' Military Deal With U.S. Discussed

PM141127 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Provisions of U.S.-Egyptian Secret Military Agreement"]

[Text] The agreement signed by Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah [deputy prime minister and defense minister] during his recent visit to the United States is still shrouded in complete secrecy. The phrase used was "U.S.-Egyptian memorandum of understanding." To avoid the process of constitutional ratification of international agreements, the word "agreement" was not used.

The agreement confirms relations of military subservience to the United States, coming after political and economic subservience. It represents the link between the U.S. supply of arms to Egypt and Egypt's commitment to U.S. strategy, NATO plans, and the U.S. forces' use of Egyptian airfields and ports.

The agreement stipulates that Egypt has no right to develop U.S. weapons in its military factories or export them to a third party without U.S. approval. The Egyptian Government is committed to the NATO plans in the region. It has been said that Marshal Abu Ghazalah asked that the phrase "within the framework of Egypt's inclinations" be added.

In view of the military equipment and grants its gets from the United States, Egypt is committed to the U.S. plans necessary for maintaining security in the region, but Egypt has been given freedom to choose the suitable role for it to play in these plans.

The agreement adds that the Egyptian Government will allow U.S. forces to use Egyptian airfields and ports against foreign threats to the security and safety of the states in the region. It further states that military cooperation between the two states would continue even if they do not agree on a definition of threats to the region's states. The agreement did not fail to emphasize that the U.S. arms deal with Egypt will neither affect the balance with Israel nor jeopardize the U.S. commitments to the Israeli Government.

Students Protest Emergency, Land Laws

PM201437 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Apr 88 pp 1,2

['Amir 'Abd al-Mun'im report: "Public, Student Demonstrations in Protest Against Emergency Law and Law Granting Foreigners Tenure on Egyptian Land and Property"]

[Text] A huge wave of demonstrations surged all last week at Cairo University and the Al-Matariyah Technical, Commercial, and Industrial Institute in protest against the prolongation of the emergency law for 3 more years. In addition, the city of Al Minyah witnessed violent clashes between the security forces and demonstrators who came out in protest against the promulgation of the law granting foreigners tenure on Egyptian land and property.

At Cairo University, students demonstrated last Tuesday on the university campus in protest against the emergency law and in condemnation of the use of bullets and repressive methods against the Egyptian people instead of against Israel—action which resulted in the

killing of Muhammad Qutb, a student at Asyut University, by a bullet from central security soldiers. The demonstration began soon after students held, on the premises of the Dar al-'Ulum College, a conference in which they vilified the interior minister's terrorist policy with all the nation's groups in light of the emergency law, and pointed out that what Zaki Badr is doing to the Egyptian people exceeds what the terrorist Shamir is doing to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In addition, students at the Al-Matariyah Technical, Commercial, and Industrial College also demonstrated last Tuesday soon after a conference was held by students on the institute's premises, in which they declared their rejection of the prolongation of the emergency law, pointed out that the law means the restriction of liberties and the muzzling of people, and urged an end to the campaigns of arrests against students. They also condemned the security organs' intervention in student affairs, such as the pressure exerted on the institute's director to cancel a photographic exhibition on Palestine staged by students in solidarity with the stone-throwing revolution in the occupied territories.

In Al Minyah Governorate, Al Minyah city witnessed violent clashes between the central security forces and members of Islamic groups soon after the demonstrations which broke out in protest against the law on foreign property ownership, introduced by the People's Assembly at last Tuesday's sitting.

The demonstrations spread from Balas Square in Al Minyah and progressed through the streets of the city. The demonstrators raised banners condemning the sale of Egypt to the Jews and the treachery of members of the National Party in their approval of this notorious law.

The Islamic organization in Al Minyah issued a statement entitled "The People's Assembly Betrays the People", in which they confirmed that under this law the Jews will be able the buy Egypt in total, as they previously bought up the land of Palestine; and they confirmed that the promulgation of the law is regarded as a mark of shame on the faces of those wanting to abandon the land to the Jews. They also pointed out that the law will increase the people's suffering and complicate the worsening housing problem.

Libya

Officials Refuse Comment on 'Arafat Visit

LD201910 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1755 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, April 20 (TANJUG)—In a statement to TANJUG today, Libyan officials had "no comments" concerning the unconfirmed information that Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Libyan capital last night and that he met with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, following which the two leaders left for Syria to attend the funeral of the killed Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) deputy military commander, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. In the meantime, Palestinian circles in Tripoli have confirmed that 'Arafat and Al-Qadhdhafi met last night. They also added that Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf) head of PLO security arrived with 'Arafat.

The Libyan press this morning published an extensive report on yesterday's meeting in Tunisia between 'Arafat and Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of Libya's leadership. It is very likely that the meeting was devoted to coordinating details concerning 'Arafat's visit to Libya and his first meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi after a break of many years. The killed Palestinian commander Abu Jihad had lately visited Libya several times and has evidently established a "bridge" for an 'Arafat-Al-Qadhdhafi meeting.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat

LD201617 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Yasir 'Arafat today.

Jallud 'Strongly' Condemns U.S. Attacks on Iran

LD201958 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, April 20, IRNA—Member of Libya's leadership council Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud strongly condemned the aggressor U.S. forces unprovoked attacks on Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf. During two telephone talks with Iranian ambassador in Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Asadi Khonsari over the past three days, Jallud reaffirmed Libya's stance to stand beside the Islamic Republic.

The Libyan leadership council considers the savage U.S. aggression against Iran as an invasion of all Muslim countries.

In response, the Iranian ambassador thanked the Libyan official for his country's stance on the issue. Meanwhile, Senegal's Islamic revoluton movement categorically condemned U.S. attacks on Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf. In a statement submitted to the Iranian Embassy here, the movement announced its readiness to fight the U.S. forces and avenge the blood of the martyrs of the U.S. attacks.

Mauritania

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda Visits 15 Apr

Meets President Taya

AB151236 Paris AFP in French 1116 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 15 Apr (AFP)—The Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, who is also the current OAU chairman, arrived this morning in Nouakchott, the

fourth leg of his mission aimed at finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the Western Saharan conflict. The Zambian head of state has already held consultations with King Hassan II of Morocco; the Algerian president, Mr Chadli Bendjedid; and the SDAR president, Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz. He is visiting Nouakchott in order to gather the viewpoints of the Mauritanian president, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, on the conflict in Western Sahara.

Private talks between the two heads of state began a few minutes after the arrival of President Kaunda, who is scheduled to leave Nouakchott late in the morning for Niamey. Having once played a role in the Western Sahara conflict, Mauritania has been observing strict neutrality since its withdrawal from this territory. It is, nonetheless, interested in the conflict on its borders and has, on several occasions, expressed its fear of becoming involved in it again as a result of the defense wall built by Morocco a few hundred meters away from its economic facilities in the north of the country.

Mauritania is committed to the resolution of the conflict and holds the view that it complicates relations among the Maghreb countries.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD160134 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon at Nouakchott airport, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, saw off Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the current OAU chairman, at the end of his few-hours visit to our country. During the visit he talked with the president about his mission in the region as well as other issues of mutual interest to the two countries and to the African continent. [passage omitted]

At the VIP hall, President Kenneth Kaunda made a statement to the national press in which he said: As I leave Nouakchott, I feel satisfied with the outcome of my talks with my brother Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state. The OAU chairman pointed out that he had reviewed with the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state the outcome of his talks with King Hassan II, of the Kingdom of Morocco; President Chadli Bendjedid, the of the Republic of Algeria; and Mohamed Abdelaziz, the SDAR president.

President Kaunda said that his visit will be followed soon by a tour of the region by the UN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Taya Receives Togo Foreign Minister

AB161529 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The chairman of the CMSN and head of state yesterday received Yaovi Adodo, Togolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who bore a message from the Togolese head of state to the chairman of the CMSN and head of state. Here is the Togolese minister: [Begin recording] I have just delivered a message to the president. This message is part of the (?regular) consultations in our region. It also concerns the bonds of cooperation between Togo and Mauritania. [end recording]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Praises Kuwait on Hijacking Stand

JN201748 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)—This afternoon Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi telephoned His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, voicing his great happiness over the end of the crisis of the recently hijacked Kuwaiti plane and congratulating him on the safety of those who survived the hijacking.

The prime minister also paid tribute to the Kuwait's constant stand of refusing to give in to the hijackers' blackmail.

Parties Sign National Government Charter

JN201120 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)—A charter for the goals and policies of the national reconciliation government was signed at dawn today by the Al-Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Sudanese National Party, the African parties, and the southern Sudanese parties. The National Islamic Front did not sign because [word indistinct] the Islamic canon laws.

The first document of the charter contains the issues on which agreement was reached by all the political forces with regard to the programs and goals of the national reconciliation government. The second document contains the issues on which the political forces differ.

Official Restates Refugee Policy

JN201147 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1009 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)—Commissioner for Refugees Hassan 'Atiyah has denied press reports that 50,000 Ethiopian refugees had entered Sudan in search of shelter.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AYYAM, he said a total of 1,800 refugees had entered Sudan during the past 6 months and that Sudan will pursue its policy of stopping the flow of refugees. This policy, he said, has reduced the flow which had been very intense over the past few years.

On the other hand, the commissioner for refugees denied reports in foreign broadcasts quoting Ethiopian officials as warning Sudan against giving relief to the poor in liberated territories.

The commissioner said that as far as the refugees are concerned, Sudan's policy is based on humanitarian principles. He said that Sudan does everything possible to supply relief to refugees in affected areas and to offer facilities to ensure that no one dies of hunger.

500 'Outlaws' Killed in Al-Nasir City Battle

JN201116 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1043 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)—The Armed Forces inflicted a great defeat on the outlaw forces led by Colonel John Garang last Monday, in a fierce 6-hour battle that was waged around the city of Al-Nasir. The battle resulted in the defeat of the outlaws, killing 500 of them and wounding others. The rebels fled their positions around the city, which was entered by the Armed Forces last Monday. The Armed Forces lost 43 martyrs and others were wounded.

The Armed Forces repulsed groups of outlaws from around Al-Nasir city after gaining control of the theaters of operation in the Upper Nile Region. The outlaws then returned to their positions around the city, but last Monday the Armed Forces achieved victory over them.

SPLA Claims MiG-23 Shot Down in Juba

EA210933 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Details of the military aircraft blown up at Juba Airport have emerged. It has been identified as a MiG-23 and was shot at by the SPLA Hadid forces, under the direct command of (Con Kudum Chot) using RPG-7's and other small weapons. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Receives Libya's Al-Humaydi 20 Apr

LD201921 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tunisian-Libyan relations were among the issues focused on by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in this morning's meeting at the Republican Palace in Carthage with Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche was present at the meeting.

After the meeting, which was also attended by the permanent representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Arab League, Maj al-Humaydi said he had the pleasure of meeting President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, noting it was a good opportunity to convey to his excellency a message from his Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He added it was also an opportunity to discuss issues of common concern, whether on the Arab Maghreb level or the level of the Arab nation as a whole. Maj al-Humaydi expressed his satisfaction with the fruitful and developing relations between the two brotherly countries, stressing the Jamahiriyah's support for the Tunisian people.

Al-Wazir Inquiry Reviews Evidence Against Israel

LD201612 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] At the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presided over a meeting of the committee authorized by his excellency to investigate the assassination of Palestinian struggler Abu Jihad, Khalil al-Wazir.

During the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, new evidence received by the inquiry was examined which confirms Israel's responsibility for the blatant aggression perpetrated on Tunisian soil. Among this evidence was the presence of footprints near the seashore in the Raoued area, where the three vehicles used by the attackers were found. This indicates that the Israeli commandos who executed the terrorist operation could have entered and left Tunisia by sea.

Investigations have also revealed that three people came to Tunisia earlier on Lebanese passports bearing the names of (Khalil Kasbi), born 1948, Passport No 489439; (Hawadah Ali Mustafa), born 1948, Passport No 510489; (Abu Riyah [element indistinct] Rashad), born 1947, Passport No 410199. The three had hired the vehicles used in the execution of the terrorist operation from three car rental agencies. The president has given permission for international warrants to be issued for the arrest of these three people.

Commentary on Assassination

LD201751 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Belhassen Ben Arfa commentary]

[Text] Israeli arrogance knows no limit. The intransigence of the Israeli rulers recognizes no rules. Israel unveiled anew its hatred and its terroristic policy, as well as its treacherous methods, when it assassinated Palestinian struggler Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] at his residence in the suburb of Sidi Bu Sa'id at dawn last Saturday. The assassination operation was carried out with prior planning by the Israeli terror gangs, who know nothing but savagery, cunning, and deception. Despite the hideousness of the Israeli crime, Tunisia will always stand by the Palestinian people in their struggle, under the leadership of the PLO—their sole legitimate representative—until this struggling people regain their rights and build their independent state on the lands of their fathers and forefathers.

The president of the Republic has instructed the foreign minister to meet with the ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council

and the ambassadors of some of the other states accredited to Tunisia in order to lodge a complaint against Israel with the Security Council. The foreign minister, on the instructions of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has drawn the attention of the representatives of the five states to the seriousness of the terrorist operation committed by Israel against Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and informed them of Tunisia's resolve to take action that will prevent Israel from carrying out terrorist acts on Tunisian soil in the future.

Today the Palestinian martyr Abu Jihad will be buried in the Syrian capital. He fell while defending sons of his people. If Israel believes that hitting Palestinian leaders will weaken the determination of the people struggling for their freedom, then it is mistaken. There is no doubt Israel is mistaken because this is its attitude. If one struggler dies, another is born; if a martyr falls in the occupied territories, another Palestinian takes up the torch. The Palestinian people as a whole are in one procession of struggle. Tunisia, with its leadership, government, and people, will continue supporting the Palestinian brothers, backing them, standing by them, and working in their interests. The treacherous criminal operation carried out by Israel will never deflect us from our determination, irrespective of the price, to continue along the path of supporting and backing the Palestinian people until they are freed from the yoke of colonialism and may exercise their freedom on Palestinian land.

Intra-Gulf

UK Navy Warns Merchant Ships To Avoid Hormuz

LD200956 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0633 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] British shipping movements in and out of the Gulf are at a standstill after Royal Navy [RN] warnings that merchant ships should stay away from the Strait of Hormuz. Britain's Armilla patrol is actively discouraging British-flag vessels from using the narrow waterway by not offering to accompany them.

A Navy spokesman said yesterday: "There is a temporary increased risk in transiting the Strait of Hormuz and we feel it would be wrong to place merchant or RN personnel in unnecessary danger by continuing to transit through the area for the time being."

The warning came despite a declaration by the Iranian charge d'affaires in London that the Iranians had no intention of attacking British shipping. Nine British merchant ships—two container vessels and seven oil tankers—are inside the Gulf. A spokeswoman for the General Council of British Shipping said: "We know nobody is moving. They are all taking the advice very seriously. It is simply too dangerous to move. If the Ministry of Defence thinks that, people do heed it."

British strategy is closely monitored by other navies providing protection in the Gulf and it is expected they will follow the Royal Navy's lead. Three ships are now sitting just outside the strait with the destroyer Gloucester and it is expected several more British vessels will join them over the next few days. The Royal Navy confirmed it would respond to a call for help from a merchant vessel under attack in the strait if one of the Armilla patrol warships was in the area.

The Strait of Hormuz is particularly dangerous for shipping because of the proximity of the Iranian coast with its batteries of Chinese-built Silkworm missiles. It also has safe harbours for the Boghammer patrol boats used by Revolutionary Guards.

The British-flagged "York Marine" was set ablaze earlier this week, allegedly in an attack by Iranian gunboats. Iran's charge d'affaires in London Mr Ahkondzadeh-Basti was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday, where a senior official protested about the attack on the Hong Kong-registered vessel.

Mr Basti told reporters afterwards: "I explained the total situation in the context of the American provocative acts." He said he "could not accept this unjustified protest. I made clear there is no intention on the Iranian side to attack British ships in the Persian Gulf or any other ships which are engaged in their normal commercial business, unless they associate themselves with the Iraqis." He also denied his country was responsible for mining the Gulf.

Defence experts believe the Iranians are anxious to avoid a full naval battle with the Americans as they are heavily outnumbered and outgunned. Maximum impact would be achieved by attacking tankers and other merchant vessels.

French Ship Discovers Three Mines in Gulf

LD201220 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A French ship has just discovered three more mines in the Gulf. The corvette "Jean de Vienne" succeeded in destroying one of them. Three other French ships have been ordered to go to the Strait of Hormuz area in view of the renewed risks in the region. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Iranian Attacks Against Kuwait, UAE Denounced

JN211016 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Apr (WAKH)—Bahrain has denounced Iran's firing a missile at Kuwaiti territory yesterday as well as Iran's attack against an oil platform at the Mubarak oil field in the UAE. Bahrain has also denounced the laying of sea mines, the various threats to shipping in the Gulf, and the aggravation of tension in the region. In a statement to WAKH today, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry reasserted Bahrain's support and backing for Kuwait and the UAE in all measures they take to safeguard their security and the safety of their territories.

Kuwait

Government Protests Iranian Missile Attack

LD201306 Kuwait KUNA in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 20 (KUNA)—Kuwait has strongly protested to Iran against an Iranian missile aggression on Kuwait at dawn Wednesday, saying the hostile action would further fuel tensions in the Arabian Gulf region. An authoritative Foreign Ministry source told KUNA that the Iranian charge d'affaires was summoned to the Ministry and was told by Undersecretary Solayman Majid al-Shahin about Kuwait's strong-term protest and condemnation at the unprovoked Iranian rocket attack.

Al-Shahin, the source added, emphasized to the Iranian envoy that Kuwait's steadfastness and firm stance would defeat all evil intentions designed to plunge the region into ruin and destruction.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry has informed the U.N. and other competent international organizations about details of the new Iranian aggression on Kuwait.

Amir, Jordanian King Discuss Developments

LD191046 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] His highness the amir of the country has received a telephone call from his brother King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the sisterly Kingdom of Jordan. The call was related to the situation in the Arab arena.

Premier Sends Condolences on Al-Wazir Death

LD162044 Kuwait KUNA in English 1542 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 16 (KUNA)—H.H. the crown prince and premier, Shaykh Sa'd 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah today sent a (?cable) of condolences to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat over the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) the deputy supreme commander of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces.

H.H. extended condolences on his behalf and in the name of all cabinet members to 'Arafat, to the national liberation movement, Fatah, the Palestinian revolution, Palestinian people and family of the deceased who was martyred while performing his duty in struggling for the sake of his nation.

Shaykh Sa'd expressed confidence that the martyrs will only further ignite the Palestinian revolution and will not deter our will and determination to continue struggle until victory and restoration of usurped rights.

Further on Conclusion of Airliner Hijacking

Al-'Usaymi Denies Deal

LD210929 Kuwait KUNA in English 0838 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 21 (KUNA)—Kuwait state minister for foreign affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi last night reiterated that Kuwait did not strike a deal with the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner who surrendered to Algerian authorities yesterday morning at the end of the 16-day ordeal.

"There is no deal as far as we know. It was an effort by our brothers in Algeria that produced a very successful settlement that secured freedom of the hostages on board the plane. That is all I can say," the senior Kuwaiti official told reporters upon returning home from Algiers.

Al-'Usaymi, who headed the Kuwaiti team in Algiers that helped Algerian authorities negotiating with the nine air pirates, added that Kuwait was not a party to the negotiations between the Algerians and the hijackers.

"No. Never. We were there just to take care of the hostages and try to get them safely as we can," replied Al-'Usaymi to one question.

The state minister said it was up to the Kuwaiti Government to decide what actions it would take regarding the hijackers.

"It is a Kuwaiti case and of course it is going to be left for the Government of Kuwait to decide what they want to do about it. I cannot tell myself," Al-'Usaymi went on.

Asked if Kuwait plans to seek extradition of the hijackers to stand trial for murdering two Kuwaiti passengers, Al-'Usaymi replied: "Well I remember the Algerian minister of interior has made it very clear that this is an Algerian case."

Al-'Usaymi on Algerian Efforts

LD201412 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Apr 88

["Event and Comment" program; recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Excerpt] Today there is room for joy, as all the hostages of the Kuwaiti airliner have been released this morning at Houari Boumedienne Airport after a hijack ordeal that lasted 16 days. It was the longest hijack operation in history. Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is in Algiers, has addressed thanks for the government of sisterly Algeria and its people, on behalf of Kuwait—amir, government, and people—for their competent dealing with the hijack crisis.

Dear listener, Kuwait Radio, in its usual followup of events, this morning had a direct contact from the studio of Event and Comment with the Kuwaiti Embassy in Algiers. At the beginning, dear listener, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the minister of state for foreign affairs, talked about the great and praiseworthy Algerian efforts that were exerted to release the Kuwaiti hostages.

He said: "Undoubtedly, they were great efforts, which deserve the appreciation and gratitude of all. One cannot find words to describe all the efforts exerted by our brothers in Algeria, from His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid to his excellency the interior minister and his excellency the foreign minister, and all our Algerian brothers who made huge efforts to give this crisis a peaceful ending, thank God."

As for the condition of the hostages, Al-'Usaymi further said: "I met the hostages as soon as they alighted from the plane. Their morale is very high and they are in good condition, which is good news. There is no one in poor health, but to be sure, all our brothers the passengers were taken to the military hospital prepared by the Algerian authorities, where they were subjected to many examinations. I believe that most of them will leave the hospital now or later on, all in good condition."

As for the return of the released to Kuwait, Mr al-'Usaymi said: "I think this matter will take some time. They will probably leave Algiers tomorrow afternoon and reach Kuwait, God willing, after dinner."

Mr al-'Usaymi added at the end of Kuwait Radio's contact with him: "We hope that, through you, their families will be informed that they are all in good health, and that no one among them is suffering from anything whatsoever, but, to be on the safe side, we thought to take them to the hospital to thoroughly examine their condition. I also want to convey the greetings of all the brothers released and the airliner's crew, and also the greetings of the Kuwaiti delegation in Algiers and all the brothers working at the Kuwaiti Embassy starting with his excellency the ambassador. We send our greetings to all and we thank God for this happy ending, and for the fact that everything ended as we hoped.

"In fact, there are so many things to say, but quickly, we have to thank sisterly Algeria, starting with his excellency the president, the government, and the Algerian people who, since the arrival of the plane, worked toward the safe release of the hostages. This is not only my personal feeling and that of the Kuwaiti brothers here with me, but the feeling of all Kuwait. Since the plane landed at Houari Boumedienne Airport, we were all relieved, and we knew that, God willing, the safety and security of the passengers...[Al-'Usaymi changes thought] and that it was only a matter of time.

"Undoubtedly, the wisdom and experience of the brothers in Algeria, and their great role in dealing with this issue with their renowned wisdom, all this had a great effect on the release of the passengers, and the ending of this question peacefully, thank God."

The Kuwaiti ambassador to the sisterly Republic of Algeria, Jasim Bursali, made the following statement: "As his excellency the minister said, all are in good health, and they are at the hospital to have some routine examinations. Then, at the end of the day, they will leave the hospital."

At the end of this contact, which took place this morning between the studios of Kuwait Radio and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Algiers, the doctor accompanying the Kuwaiti delegation in Algiers made the following statement:

"As for their general condition, it is satisfactory on the whole and no one is sick, but they are apparently tired, mainly psychologically. Their general condition is excellent. We have seen them at the airport right after their release, then at the hospital when they arrived there. They seem to be tired, and the medical staff took some samples as a precautionary measure only. But no one is sick." [passage omitted]

Passengers To Return 21 Apr

LD201254 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1204 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait [no date as received]—A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers says the passengers of the Kuwaiti airliner—Al-Jabiriyah—who were released this morning will return to the homeland at about 2200 Thursday, after having been detained by the criminal hand of terrorism for 16 days. After arriving at Kuwait airport on a special Kuwaiti flight, they will be given a big official and popular reception. [passage omitted]

KUNA Hails Government Stand Against 'Blackmail'

LD202035 Kuwait KUNA in English 1905 GMT 20 Apr 88

["Al-Jabiriyah—KUNA Comment"—KUNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, April 20 (KUNA)—Despite the martyrdom of two Kuwaiti youths in the course of the hijacking incident, the happy end of the 16-day crisis has been a source of pleasure for the Kuwaiti people, Arab, Muslim and all residents on the soil of Kuwait. It has been evident that the Kuwaiti leadership strongly abides by its decisive stands, genuine principles and civilized traditions in declining to succumb to extortion or to give concessions under pressures of inhuman defiance.

The way the crisis ended is a triumph for the Arab will and firmness against blackmail and aggression. It is a victory, not only against the masterminds and tools of the hijacking, but also against the dirty collaboration between those who designed the crime and the fascist Zionism which gained great profits as a result of the hijacking which overshadowed the Israeli brutal practices against the Palestinian people.

Taking the advantage of the hijacking, the Zionists perpetrated the crime of assassinating the Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir. However, the reaction of the Palestinian revolutionaries was immediate, decisive and expressive of pan-Arab will.

It was a sort of good omen that the joyful end of the Kuwaiti plane coincided with the Arab nation's celebration of Iraq's liberation of Al-Faw peninsula from Iranian occupation.

At such crucial times, the Arab nation is strongly requested to unify ranks, mass its potentials in face of all aggressors and to deter all hostile powers from even thinking of incurring any harm on the Arab nation.

Paper Praises Shi'ite Statement on Hijacking

JN181808 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Apr 88 p 6

["Opinion" by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "People of Kuwait Are United"]

[Text] The many statements made during the last few days by the Kuwaiti Shi'ites and the communique of the Shi'ite Husayniyahs (religious centres) are a clear indication of the unity of the people of Kuwait. The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airplane were mistaken when they thought they could create a rift in Kuwaiti society by releasing a number of Shi'ite passengers.

In Kuwait the law does not differentiate between the Shi'ite or Sunni. Both are equal. The released Kuwaiti passengers spoke frankly about the maltreatment of the passengers by the hijackers and said that the hijackers had questioned them about the sect to which they belonged.

Our citizens condemned such an attitude and the attempt at discriminating between Kuwaitis based on their sect. The hijackers proved that their main goal was to try to exploit sectarian feelings for their own use.

The hijackers were wrong when they thought that the national unity of Kuwait could be affected by their preference in releasing the hostages based on sect. They forgot that all of them are Kuwaitis and receive the same respect as long as they are loyal to their country.

The notice published by the Husayniyahs on Saturday in all the local press is a blow to those who thought the Kuwaiti people would react differently. All people in Kuwait condemn terrorism and the abuse of innocent people. Above all, people in Kuwait recognise that all Kuwaitis are equal.

All Kuwaitis realise that decayed brains fish in troubled waters during a crisis. But our Shi'ite brothers have already thwarted the hijackers' plans by issuing the communique and by their statements.

In Kuwait we are accustomed to solid national unity, not only during times of crisis, but on other occasions as well. We want national unity to prevail—we want it to continue as does the leader of this country.

Our leader hates to see a lack of unity in Kuwaiti society. He has declared this repeatedly in his speeches and addresses and whenever doubts are raised about the strength of the national unity.

PDRY

YSP Official Arrives on Visit to Bulgaria

EA181945 Aden ANA in Arabic 1336 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Sofia 18 Apr (ANA)—Comrade Salim Bukayr, YSP Central Committee member and secretary, arrived in Sofia yesterday for a visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria lasting several days. On arrival, he was received by a comrade deputy secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and the comrade ambassador of the PDRY to Bulgaria.

During the visit mutual cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly in the ideological, cultural, and information fields, will be discussed.

Qatar

Government Denounces Khalil al-Wazir Assassination

JN210725 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 20 Apr (WAKH)—Qatar has vehemently denounced the crime of assassinating martyr Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, in Tunis last Saturday. Qatar described the assassination as a desperate attempt to undermine the proud Palestinian people's determination to continue their brave struggle to regain their freedom, dignity, and all their legitimate rights on their national soil.

In a statement issued by the Qatari Council of Ministers following its weekly session chaired by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, the government also reaffirmed its consistent stand supporting the struggle of the fraternal Palestinian people under the PLO. The Qatari Council of Ministers stressed its full confidence that this criminal action will not deter the courageous Palestinian people from continuing their resistance to Israeli occupation until they achieve a decisive victory. The Council of Ministers also denounced the savage violation of the sovereignty of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia through this abominable crime. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Jordanian Prime Minister

LD202310 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received in his office at Al-Yamamah Palace yesterday evening Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who conveyed to him a message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the sovereign of the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives on Visit 20 Apr

Received by King Fahd

LD210257 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2315 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received in his office at the Royal Palace in Al-Yammamah tonight His Excellency Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of public works and tourism. The meeting was attended by His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information, and His Excellency Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers.

The Lebanese minister of public works and tourism arrived earlier this evening in Riyadh and was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by Dr Muhammad Al-Mulham.

Received by Crown Prince

LD201648 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1405 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, this afternoon at his office received Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of public works, tourism, and transport and leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Walid Junblatt arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening.

Government Denounces Iranian Missile Attack

LD202204 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA)—The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemned and denounced today the missile attack on the fraternal state of Kuwait. This was stated to SPA by a responsible source.

The source added: We have followed with great concern the Kuwaiti statement that Iran launched a missile early today which hit the Kuwaiti desert. The source also said: While condemning this blatant aggressive act against the state of Kuwait or any fraternal Gulf state which is not a belligerent in the conflict with Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms its stance by the side of fraternal Kuwait in everything that protects its security and the safety of its territories.

United Arab Emirates

Envoy, Al-Shariqah Ruler Discuss U.S. Attacks

LD201541 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Haeri-Fumani met with ruler of Al-Shariqah Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, Tuesday evening. Discussed at the meeting were the latest developments in the region following U.S. attacks on Iranian oil rigs in the Persian Gulf, including the Mobarak oil field jointly owned with Al-Shariqah.

Earlier the same day, Haeri had met the deputy foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates and conferred on the incidents of the past two days.

Syrian-Palestinian Meeting 'Cause for Optimism'

JN201829 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Tragedy and the Glad Tidings"]

[Text] We do not like to say that the anticipated meeting between the Syrian leadership and the PLO leaders will erase in minutes the accumulations of a 6-year-old estrangement despite the fact that we want to see this happen. However, we are entitled to expect glad tidings. Syria's announcement that the Arab territory of Damascus welcomes the body of martyred Palestinian leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and that it also welcomes all Palestinian faction figures who desire to participate in the funeral ceremony of Abu Jihad—the figures who have been unable to visit Damascus for many years because of Syrian-Palestinian differences—is cause for optimism.

This step has proved that the Arab nation is capable of exploiting cruel and bitter moments to bring about positive stands that alleviate the effects of the tragedy and bolster hope. The declared differences between the Syrian and Palestinian sides were on the means to uphold and regain the usurped Arab and Palestinian rights and not on these rights. This indicates that the differences were, as a matter of fact, marginal and that they must remain so despite the depth of the crack in the relationship binding the two sides and despite the stands generated throughout the previous period due to these differences. The Arab world's edifice has been suffering from many cracks and rifts, some of which have been healed. However, other cracks and rifts remain to be tackled and overcome.

A normalization of the relations between the Syrians and the Palestinians has a special significance, not to mention the importance derived from the fact that it is a necessity that needs to materialize if an inter-Arab normalization of relations is to occur. The PLO is the recognized representative, on the Arab and international levels, of

the Palestinian Arab people and their cause. On the other hand, Syria is a major party to the Arab confrontation camp facing the Israeli enemy. Besides, Syria plays a key role in any moves regarding the conflict with Israel, irrespective of the direction of these moves.

It goes without saying that the Arab confrontation circle surrounding Israel will remain incomplete in the absence of a strong coordination between the confrontation states—the coordination which must involve Syria and the PLO.

We reiterate that we do not expect a magical touch that obliterates the accumulations of the past, since rapidly concluded reconciliations remain vulnerable if they are not based on agreed upon bases and also on a deep understanding of the importance of joint Arab action. However, we reiterate that we are optimistic, considering the uniqueness of the Arab character which is capable of overcoming many negative accumulations and experiences when the antagonists meet. Pan-Arab and emotional considerations do mix and this paves the way for narrowing differences.

Maybe Abu Jihad's fate was, as it was said yesterday, to be martyred to pave the way for laying down a new sound basis for inter-Arab relations.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Congratulates Saddam Husayn on Victory

JN191342 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 19 APR 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, held a telephone contact with his brother President Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq. He congratulated Saddam Husayn and the fraternal Iraqi people on the great victory achieved by the heroic Iraqi Army by liberating a beloved part of the Arab land and expelling the Iranian aggressors from the Al-Faw area.

He also voiced appreciation for the heroic sacrifices of the Iraqi Army and people in defending the Arab land and preserving the Arab sovereignty. During the conversation, they also exchanged congratulations on Ramadan and discussed a number of developments in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

Interior Minister Leaves for Al-Wazir Funeral

JN200741 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abdallah Barakat, interior minister and Standing Committee member, today left Sanaa for Damascus at the head of a military delegation from the Armed Forces General Command to take part in the funeral of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, who was assassinated last Saturday in Tunis by treacherous bullets, Zionist conspiracy, and those behind it.

In a statement to SABA news agency on departure, the brother minister said that our country's participation in the funeral of Abu Jihad is authorized by brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and secretary general of the General People's Congress, because the martyr is not a martyr of the Palestinian revolution alone, but of the entire Arab and Islamic nations.

The interior minister added: The Arab and Islamic nations have lost a strong faithful struggler, whose blood will rekindle the spirit of martyrdom in pursuit of justice by Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims, no matter how dear the sacrifices. The minister also said: Abu Jihad has given his blood to the Palestinian revolution and people. He staged a bitter struggle with his comrades-in-arms to liberate the pure Palestinian soil from the arrogant Zionist enemy, and to achieve all national objectives of repatriation, self- determination, and establishing an independent Palestinian state on national Palestinian soil.

Concluding his statement, the minister said that he and the accompanying delegation will offer the condolences of the YAR—its leadership, government, and people—to the family of martyr Khalil al-Wazir.

'Arafat Thanks Salih for Burial Offer

JN201311 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a message from his brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, in response to the president's condolences on the martyrdom of brother struggler Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed his heartfelt appreciation and thanks for President Salih's condolences and for his genuine pan-Arab offer to receive the body of martyr Abu Jihad for burial in Yemen. 'Arafat also noted Yemeni support for the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people's struggle, and the mammoth Palestinian revolution in the occupied territory.

Yasir 'Arafat noted martyr Abu Jihad's struggle, condemning the criminal Zionist gangs. He affirmed that this crime will not go unpunished.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Bombing Moratorium Announced

JN201632 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1502 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Statement by an "official spokesman" dated 20 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since the Iranian regime began its aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980 driven by its sick expansionist dreams and evil aggressive intentions, all of Iraq's military activities have stemmed from a genuine desire for peace. The various forms of deterrent military operations carried out by Iraq throughout the years of the war were no more than an effort aimed at making the covetous, aggressor, backward, and vain Iranian regime unable to achieve its expansionist dreams and aggressive objectives.

On all occasions, we have shown that this criminal regime, which disregards the value of human life and is unconcerned by the killing of any number of people—Iranians, Iraqis, or others—for the sake of providing an outlet for its sick rancor and achieving its expanionist objectives, has always started the war of the cities driven by its wicked instincts and with the aim of achieving preplanned political purposes, especially whenever its political situation is subjected to siege and condemnation.

Since 29 February, we have been forced to carry out a large-scale campaign of deterrence against this regime. This was done through replying to its premeditated attacks on our border cities and villages and our capital Baghdad after we had exercised patience for months and showed a great deal of self-restraint, but in vain. Since that time we have given the Iranian regime hard lessons and made it realize through tangible action that the game of the cities war will only bring it destruction and defeat.

On 10 March, we gave this regime another opportunity by halting the bombardment of its cities. However, this evil regime continued to shell our border cities, villages, and purely residential centers. It also carried out its treacherous expansionist aggression in the Halabjah sector forcing us to resume deterrence. The Iraqi deterrence during March and April was devastating. The Al-Husayn missiles that poured into the capital of evil and charlatanry, Tehran, and into many Iranian cities, as well as the intensive raids carried out by Iraq's brave hawks, were clear messages demonstrating our strong resolve and confirming that our honest desire for peace stems from high capability, contrary to what the sick and backward rulers of Tehran imagine.

Then came the overwhelming victory scored by Iraq's forces, the forces of truthfulness and peace, against the Iranian regime's forces of falsehood and wickedness in the blessed Ramadan battles and the liberation of dear Al-Faw from the claws of the occupying invaders. This victory confirmed Iraq's capability in a manner leaving no room for a contrary interpretation. It also confirmed that the will of a just peace distinguishing Iraq's stand is the stronger and that the will of wickedness, rancor, and death characterizing the Tehran rulers' stand is the weaker.

Stemming from this principled, constant, and capable course, we have decided to give the Iranian regime another opportunity to reconsider its entire stand on the aggression against our country; to seriously consider renouncing its aggressive policy, which has proven to be a failure and an impossibility; and to reconsider in particular the issue of its attacks against our cities, villages, and the purely residential areas in Iraq.

It has been decided that the bombing [qasf] of Iranian cities will cease as of 2400 tonight [2000 GMT on 20 April], 20/21 April. The Iranian regime will have to accurately adhere to the just and clear principles which we announced on 10 March 1988.

Any attempt to tamper with or violate these principles will be faced with devastating deterrent action and the Iranian regime will again bear—as it has always borne—the full responsibility for the war of the cities before the Iranian people and the international community.

To enable the Iranian regime to clearly know our purposes, we would like to repeat the principles to which it must strictly adhere:

1. Since Iran began the cities war, every time including this time, and since Iran began the shelling of our great capital Baghdad in 1985 and this time when it fired two missiles on Baghdad on 29 February, the last shelling operation must be an Iraqi one before this moratorium is implemented on the set date. If the Iranian regime shells any of our cities with missiles, planes, or artillery in reply to the last Iraqi operation, then we will strongly and comprehensively continue the shelling to teach the Tehran rulers a lesson.

2. Iraq will resume the shelling of Iranian cities with all means if the Iranian regime resumes its shelling of Iraqi cities and villages with artillery, planes, missiles, or any other weapons aimed at civilians and strictly residential areas.

3. Iraq will resume the bombardment of Iranian cities with all means if the Iranian regime attacks any Arab city as it has in the past.

4. Iraq will resume the bombardment of Iranian cities with all means if the Iranian regime carries out any new aggression against our international border and attempts to invade our territory on the axes leading to Iraqi cities. In all previous invasion attempts, Iraqi cities like Basra, Al-'Amarah, Khanaqin, Al-Sulaymaniyah, and others

were targets for the Iranian regime's artillery and other weapons. This time we will respond to these attempts comprehensively through the bombardment of all Iranian cities.

5. It is necessary to assert that no confusion should occur between the bombardment of economic targets that serve the aggressive war machine, and the bombardment of purely residential areas. As long as the Iranian regime continues the aggressive war against Iraq, Iraq will be entitled to strike at the targets that serve and feed the machine of aggression and war. This is approved by international law.

[Dated] Baghdad, 20 April 1988

Communique No 3,151

JN201803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1703 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,151 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. By the resolve of faithful men and with God's help, the following missile strikes were launched simultaneously at the enemy's cities at 2000 [1600 GMT] today:

1. The 117th missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against the city of Tehran.

2. The Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out the 118th strike against the city of Esfahan with Al-Husayn missiles.

3. The 119th strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against the city of Shiraz.

May God bless you O men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn Missile Force. Praise be to God for His grace.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 April 1988

Communique No 3,152

JN201742 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1706 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,152 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. The missions carried out by our Air Force planes today against enemy units numbered 90. They inflicted further losses on the enemy. In addition, the following missions were carried out deep inside enemy territory.

a. At 1100 [0700 GMT] today, our planes launched a raid on the city of Dezful.

b. At 1343 today, our planes raided the city of Hamadan.

c. At 1352, other numbers of our planes pounded the city of Borujerd.

d. At 1430 today, our planes raided the city of Hamadan.

Having carried out all of these missions, our planes returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. The knights of our helicopter gunships carried out 102 combat missions against enemy units inflicting new losses on them in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. At 2150 last night, our naval force spotted two medium-sized war targets. They dealt them two direct blows destroying and sinking them in the sea. May God bless the brave men of our naval force.

4. Three scoundrels were killed and two large vehicles were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Two others were killed and four infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. At 0651 this morning, two enemy planes penetrated our international border aiming at residential quarters in the city of Irbil. The criminal Iranian regime also shelled residential areas in the cities of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Basra, Khanqain, and 'Ali al-Gharbi with long-range artillery. The shelling resulted in the martyrdom or wounding of a number of civilians, including women, old men, and children. The shelling also demolished and damaged a number of houses, shops, and cars.

Paradise for our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 April 1988

Missile Strikes Against Qom

JN202027 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2013 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 20 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. With God's help and the determination of righteous men, the Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out the following missile strikes:

1. At 2345 [1945 GMT], the 120th missile strike was carried out with Al-Husayn missiles against Qom.

2. At the same time, the 121st missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was also carried out against Qom.

May God bless your hands, O righteous men of Iraq. We thank God for His victory.

[Dated] 20 April 1988

Papers Review Decision To Halt War of Cities
JN211007 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 21, INA—Iraqi papers today said that Iraq, out of a position of capability and desire to establish peace, decided unilaterally to halt shelling of Iranian cities according to the just principles announced by it on the 10th of last March.

AL-THAWRAH mentioned today that this initiative of Iraq "is of great importance as it comes at a time when Iran is in bad need for it...for Iran is now weaker and more desperate than any other time."

The paper remarked that the Iranians "are now demoralized and have no enthusiasm to fight any more." It added that impact and effects of the defeat suffered by the Iranians in Al-Faw could not be concealed and would adversely affect the Iranian reality. Dreams and expansionist greedy intentions of the rulers of Iran collapsed and fell apart in Al-Faw to tell Iran tangibly and decisively how impotent it was.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-QADISIYAH paper said sincere peace calls made by Iraq since the very start of the war emanated from a feeling of international and humanitarian responsibility and out of deep awareness of the necessity of establishing peace and resorting to negotiations instead of pursuing the course of war and aggression.

The military paper of Iraq said that if the rulers of Iran believed that these righteous calls by Iraq were emanating from weakness they were immensely mistaken and short-sighted. The paper reiterated "to open eyes of the Iranian regime's rulers we tell them that we have scored a landslide victory over them in Blessed Ramadan operations, thus proving our combat efficiency and high self-confidence."

AL-QADISIYAH said what had been accomplished in blessed Ramadan operations was a unique Iraqi action that substantiated with irrefutable evidence Iraq's mounting ability. AL-QADISIYAH added that the Iranian regime was not forced to continue the war as Iraq had offered it a further chance to establish just peace according to Security Council Resolution No 598.

Touching upon the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper of Iraq mentioned that Iraq, by offering Iran the chance to halt war of the cities according to the five principles declared by it on the 10th of last March, expressed its principled, peace-loving spirit.

In an editorial published today, AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked that Al-Faw battle demonstrated how frustrated the rulers of Iran were in the military, political and economic fields. Having such clearcut constants and firm evidence in front of them, the rulers of Iran should respect international will and international community and accept Resolution No 598 in its sequential order, the paper added.

AL-JUMHURIYAH described Ramadan Mubarak operations as a military achievement that contemporary world should be proud of. It's to be noted that Iraq announced last night its decision to refrain from shelling Iranian cities as from midnight last night and in accordance with the five principles declared by it on the 10th of last March.

Begin Issues Statement on Self-Rule, Unrest
TA211320 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] In an extraordinary statement on topical issues, Menahem Begin today said he believes that the inhabitants of the territories will one day enjoy self-rule. In a statement issued on his behalf by his spokesman, Yehi'el Qadishay, Menahem Begin added that he believes we will overcome the unrest in the territories, and that the peace plan agreed upon with Egypt, which first of all includes self-rule for the inhabitants of the territories, will be implemented.

Yehi'el Qadishay also said that Menahem Begin was spending Independence Day in his residence in the company of friends and that for the moment he has no intention of returning to public life.

Shamir on Peace Process, U.S. Ties, Elections
TA210913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, Me'ir Einstein, and Razi Barqay on the occasion of Independence Day; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, a happy holiday.

[Shamir] A happy holiday to all.

[Ben-'Ami] We are celebrating 40 years of independence. You have known this country since its inception, you have been active in it through all its years of independence, and you have followed its coming of age. Is this the child you dreamed of? Has it matured into the man you foresaw, or has it prematurely grayed and become wrinkled?

[Shamir] We are never fully pleased. We always see light and shadows. On this holiday I must say, however, that there is more light than shadow, and we have every reason to say that we have achieved a great deal. We have not achieved everything. There is still a long way ahead of us. There are also shadows, but on the whole, the Israeli people can today rejoice in their country and its independence.

[Barqay] You mentioned our achievements, but we have not achieved peace. You and all preceding prime ministers have on more than one occasion declared that Israel is ready for and wants peace. Do you think the government you head is doing enough to attain peace?

[Shamir] We have been saying all along that attaining peace is our uppermost wish, and this is definitely true. This is actually the main goal of Israel's political efforts. This is what we hope and yearn for. Admittedly, the achievement of peace is not only up to us. Peace is a bilateral matter, and it takes at least two partners to make peace. To our deep regret, the Arab side remains quite rigid and intransigent. To the best of my knowledge, we have been doing everything, while the Arab side has not yet matured for real peace.

[Barqay] Is Husayn not prepared to make peace with Israel?

[Shamir] Husayn says that he is prepared to do something with Israel, but he uses the word peace very infrequently. I know the ins and outs of the negotiations with him and what I see today indicates that he is not exactly headed for a peace accord with us. He is very interested in an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders or something very close to them, but he does not yearn for real peace with us. Admittedly, he has his own constraints and pressures. He would like any action on his part to conform with the Arab consensus, which embraces both Syria and the PLO.

[Barqay] He is willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel, however, in exchange for his willingness to accept a withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

[Shamir] That is his minimal demand, and, of course, a treaty must come in exchange. He is aware of the fact that his relationship with Israel is not that bad but is rather quite good in theory. We want peace, however, not just in theory but also in practice. All his moves show that what he really wants is to regain what he considers to be the Arab lands he lost in the 6-Day War. In his opinion, what should be done with those lands is an Arab issue that should be decided upon by the Arabs.

[Einstein] Sir, the way to peace actually involves negotiations. Negotiations are supposed to lead to peace, and they also involve compromises. You say that Husayn actually wants us to go back to the 1967 borders. Still, what compromises would you be ready to make if and when such negotiations open?

[Shamir] This has been the gist of our argument. We contend that the way to peace runs through direct negotiations. The United States could offer its assistance. America is the only country in the world qualified to do that simply because it has very good relations both with us and with Jordan and that is why we agree to its involvement. The negotiations must above anything else, however, be direct. When engaging in negotiations, you do not say what your positions will be throughout the process a priori because if you do you put yourself in an inferior and weaker position. We say we will go to negotiations without any preconditions, and then we will see what the results will be. I am sure and confident that if we go to such negotiations with the determination to arrive at an agreement, the chances are that an agreement will be attained.

[Einstein] What you are saying is there are no preconditions, and everything is open to negotiation as far as we are concerned?

[Shamir] We definitely have no preconditions. We are prepared to sit and hear all the proposals of the other side as well as to voice our own.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you mentioned the United States as being the companion in this as well as previous political processes in the history of the Middle East. Is the United States of today, the United States that is accompanying the current process—which is still in its initial stages—still the same faithful companion? For example, do you not see excessive understanding on the part of the Americans toward the Jordanian king's constraints more than to ours?

[Shamir] I said the United States has the qualifications to help the sides conduct peace negotiations. This does not mean that we must accept all the proposals and solutions suggested by the United States. There have been and there are disagreements with the United States precisely on this point, but this does not prevent us from asking them to try to help us bridge the differences and bring the positions of the sides closer because they are capable of doing it and have the qualifications to do it. Still, this does not mean that we will accept everything the United States says. We do not accept the United States as an arbiter, not at all. This is absolutely impossible.

There is yet another reason why we want and are willing to regard the United States as a go-between, as a mediating factor: The United States is not in the habit of enforcing solutions on its friends and allies. It tries to persuade them, but does not force them or pressure them—and this is very important.

[Barqay] With your permission, let us go back to the question of our eastern border. You said everything is open, that Israel should not talk about compromises because these must be worked out around the negotiating table. Nonetheless, in a message to Secretary Shultz you definitely hinted at a willingness to make—if I am not mistaken—territorial compromises in Judaea and Samaria. My question is: In principle, do you foresee the possibility of foreign sovereignty in Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] I did not hint in any letter, neither in writing nor verbally, at any territorial concessions I would recommend. I only said that we are committed and faithful to the Camp David Accords, and it is stated there that 5 years after the establishment of the autonomy, negotiations would be held between us and the Arab side—its composition does not matter at the moment—about the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Indeed, the topic of the negotiations would be the status of those areas. We are not demanding a priori commitments from any side as to the nature of the status. It would be determined at the end of the negotiations.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you visited Washington not long ago. Secretary Shultz toured the area, and there is talk about his possible return to the region. I would like to ask you whether the United States is really and truly the same old ally of the past? Are you not apprehensive about this cooperation in view of all the talk about the current administration being the most friendly one ever and that any other U.S. administration might be less friendly?

[Shamir] I can say for a fact and with utmost certainty that this is the most friendly U.S. administration we have ever had. Why is that so? Not because of us, but because of the principle set out by the administration itself, with our agreement, that the strong friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States will persist and strengthen despite occasional disagreements. What does that mean? There is exceptional, very wide, and close cooperation between us and the United States in many areas, and these relations are not in the least affected by disagreements on issues that are most vital to us—but not as vital to the United States—such as the boundaries of Eretz Yisra'el, the status of Jerusalem, the ways to uphold our security. There may be and there are disagreements on these issues, and the United States has absolutely abstained from exerting any pressure or changing our very friendly relationship. Never before has any administration advocated such a principle and fully adhered to it.

[Barqay] You will be signing a memorandum of understanding with the United States today. Could you read to us some excerpts?

[Shamir] Here is a unique document which formalizes all the clauses and areas of current cooperation between us and the United States, both in the strategic, military, economic, political, and other fields. It ratifies and formalizes all the current mechanisms for the implementation of this cooperation. Various mechanisms have been set up so far as a result of ad hoc agreements between us. This time, the agreement stipulates that these mechanisms will remain in effect for a period of at least 5 years. An extension will be needed after that time. Such an agreement never existed before, and it will be binding on the next administration. This is the inheritance the current administration is actually leaving behind to the next administration, as if it were telling it: Here, we have reached agreements and cooperation with Israel in this and other areas. It has worked out fine, and we are telling you, the incoming administration, keep it up.

[Barqay] Do these other areas include intelligence?

[Shamir] Not all the areas are specified, but intelligence is included.

[Einstein] You mentioned the role played by the United States in the efforts to find a possible solution to the problems of the region. And what about the Soviet

Union? Is it your impression that recently there have been signs of a softening in Moscow's position, such as Gorbachev's call on 'Arafat to recognize the State of Israel?

[Shamir] First of all, there are rumors about a softening more than there is a softening. I would really like to see a change for the better in the Soviet positions. Notwithstanding the wide publicity given to Gorbachev's remarks to 'Arafat, we have been hearing as much for many years. Gromyko told me that in his talks with Arab statesmen when he was foreign minister, he always argued with them over their relations with Israel and tried to persuade them to maintain good relations and recognize Israel.

There is nothing new here, but some say there is thought about changes. These must be reflected in practice, first and foremost, in the establishment of normal relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. After all, the current situation is absolutely abnormal. Second, there must be a substantive change in the Soviet position regarding the exit of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel. There have been a few slight changes here and there, but we would like to see a real change in the aforementioned subjects. That should be the breakthrough, and I wholeheartedly yearn for it.

If Shevardnadze came to this region—at the moment I do not know when, a date has not yet been set—I would gladly welcome him in Israel for talks and discussions without any prior commitments.

[Ben-'Ami] Nonetheless, some signs are evident: the delegation, which included ministers, that visited Poland; the establishment of relations, albeit on a very low level, with Hungary; the Soviet foreign minister's attempt to make the rounds in this region. Do you not share the feeling that in order to obviate cooperation with the Americans, the Soviets are trying to enter some kind of vacuum the United States might leave in the region?

[Shamir] Look, Poland and Hungary are not the Soviet Union.

[Ben-'Ami] But they act with the Soviet Union's approval.

[Shamir] If you remember, I was the first Israeli foreign minister to begin breaking the way for a resumption of relations between the Soviet bloc and Israel. It was I who finalized matters with Poland. There is a certain relationship with Hungary, and I hope this trend will persist. This is a good, but a very slow course. A long time will pass before we attain some normalization, which is elementary in relations between countries.

As for a higher Soviet involvement in this region's affairs, such involvement might be detrimental to us. We would like to be in constant contact with the Soviet Union. We would like to be in a situation where we could apprise the Soviet Union of our positions, where we could persuade and be persuaded. To this very day, they see us as a pariah, as an outcast country. In order to get to it, we must resort to all kinds of go-betweens. Why should that be so? I am sure this does not serve Soviet interests either, and that is why I believe the situation will change.

[Barqay] Mr Prime Minister, Israel turns 40 today. We mentioned several wrinkles on its face, one of them being the uprising in the territories. It has been going on for over 4 months, with casualties on the Palestinian side and one girl dead on the Israeli side. Where is the end of it? Ultimately, is the solution not a political one?

[Shamir] We certainly have problems and difficulties, and nobody considers the current situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as being ideal, on the contrary. Still, this is not the first time that we have been attacked in one way or another by Arabs. I say this is one of the forms of combat against us that we have experienced through the years. At one point it is a military war, intermittent terrorist attacks, or an economic boycott. Today, in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza it takes the form of stones and firebombs. This must and should come to an end, and it will come to an end.

[Barqay] Can it be brought to an end through military means?

[Shamir] It can be brought to an end through means every country must take in order to impose order within its boundaries and to restore normal life. This is our duty, and the United States also recognizes as much. When you talk about a political solution, you probably mean peace. We all want peace, but efforts and negotiations on peace cannot and should not be conducted under the pressure of riots, stonethrowing, and acts of violence. Violence must come to an end, and I think that all political bodies in our midst must hope for the termination of violence because only after that will it be possible to hope for some kind of serious negotiations on peace.

[Einstein] Do you have an estimate of how soon calm be will restored?

[Shamir] I do not, but it would be naive to set a date. I think calm will be restored, and I believe we are getting closer. Everybody realizes today that the Palestinians are currently in some state of euphoria. They feel triumphant and on top of the world. Their demands today are sky-high. Therefore, each one of us, regardless of his position about the outcome of negotiations, must hope for the end of violence.

[Barqay] Which brings us to the heart of the matter, the dispute over Eretz Yisra'el. When you say that order must be restored in order to enable peace negotiations, you probably believe that a solution is feasible if we find a formula that reflects the despair and frustration felt by

the Palestinians. The question is: Beyond the need to restore peace, what solution do you envisage that will allay the despair and frustration of the Palestinians?

[Shamir] Why should we talk in the abstract? Let us talk about practical matters. We say, I say, that the most realistic and feasible solution proposed to date is the one agreed upon in Camp David. The Camp David Accords stipulate that the first phase of a solution to the so-called Palestinian problem is the establishment of autonomy. Today, the Americans call it interim arrangements. Secretary of State Shultz told me that upon reading in my letter that I suggest that we take this direction, he asked his aides to go over the documents referring to autonomy. They started perusing these documents, and they discovered a new world. They found out that the State of Israel had been very generous and daring in the autonomy proposals it submitted to the Arab side. The proposals contain many points that amply satisfy the wishes of Palestinian Arabs.

Hence, in my opinion, the Arab side—the Egyptians in this case—committed a gross mistake when they called off the autonomy talks. Autonomy is mainly meant to meet the wishes of the Palestinians. It does not promote Israel's interests. It promotes peace by amply satisfying the ambitions of the Palestinians.

[Barqay] It satisfies their wishes, but it does not give them independence.

[Shamir] Independence? That is the point of the negotiations. Autonomy gives them, first and foremost, an area where they would run their own affairs in the first stage. In the second stage, there would be negotiations in which they would take part in determining their fate and future. This is an enormous step forward compared with what they have now, and after all, they have never had independence. They have no political experience in this respect. There has never been a Palestinian state in this land. Not too long ago, in a moment of candidness, Egyptian President Mubarak said he thought the termination of the negotiations had been a mistake. Had these negotiations continued, he said, they would have greatly promoted the Palestinian cause. If a mistake was made, why can it not be put right? Why can we not return to that same course today in view of the fact that there is no other course available at present?

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, over the last 6 months we have also seen a change in the position and attitude of Israel's Arabs. This factor was not taken into account in the days of the autonomy talks. Has there really been a change?

[Shamir] There have been some worrisome signs and developments among Israel's Arabs, who are obviously under the influence of the vast propaganda of the terrorist organizations, the Arab countries, and what has been happening in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I still hope, however, that the vast majority of Israel's Arabs want to continue to live and coexist faithfully with the Jews of Eretz Yisra'el as Israeli citizens. I believe this is in their best interests. They must not stray from this path because if they do, we will not be the ones who will lose.

[Ben-'Ami] Another aspect of the matter is the IDF's involvement. The IDF has been going through this lengthy and hard trial. In addition to its military duties in the territories, it has recently been dragged, as it were, into the political argument. Does this not endanger or weaken the IDF?

[Shamir] First of all, daily security is one of the IDF's duties. Over the years, the IDF has assigned many troops and efforts to uphold Israel's daily security. It is clear to all IDF branches and soldiers that this is their duty and obligation. As for it being the cause of political confrontations, I think the latter should be shied away from and avoided at all costs. We must stick to what I would call the sacred and unanimously accepted principle that the IDF is the army of the people, that the IDF carries out the duties entrusted to it by the government, and that the IDF carries no political character.

Of course, this principle applies both to the political bodies in Israel and to the IDF. The IDF authorities must also take very good care to abstain from engaging in any activity that might be construed as politically favoring one side or another. I think the IDF and the political community in Israel usually do take care, with few exceptions here and there which must be removed and avoided. I hope we will succeed in doing that. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] On our 40th Independence Day, how do you assess the danger of war?

[Shamir] I am sorry to say that the danger of war always exists in our region. The question is when, whether it is an imminent or a remote possibility. We would like it to be as remote as possible. There are two things we can do to that end: increase our security and thereby our power to deter such a danger, and work for peace. It seems to me that we are doing both. All the rest depends on the other side. I hope the danger of a war in our region currently is low, given the international political developments. I hope so, but I cannot unequivocally state as much because changes in our region occasionally are very sudden. The way things look at present, the danger currently is low. I very much hope we are not getting closer to war, but rather getting away from it.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, allow me to be more specific. Does this also apply to Syria?

[Shamir] When I talk about the danger of war I mainly have Syria in mind, and this is only natural. The leaders of that country keep saying that as far as they are concerned, such a possibility exists. I hope that in view

of its current situation and of the position of the international elements that have an impact on the region, one can state that such a possibility is not feasible, or in any event, is not imminent.

[Einstein] Does the fact that we are not advancing toward peace or even toward some kind of arrangement with Syria not bring the danger of war closer?

[Shamir] My friend, how can we advance toward an arrangement with such an intransigent and radical country, with a country that does not include peace among its goals? It is hard. Therefore, and first of all, we must not blame ourselves. Why should we take additional blame on ourselves? We should leave that to our enemies. Second, we should hope that elements outside this region will prevent Syria from approaching that dangerous path.

[Barqay] Mr Prime Minister, today being Independence Day and 6 months prior to elections, will you be prepared to share the leadership in a unity government with Shim'on Peres once again?

[Shamir] I am often asked such questions. To tell you the truth, I sometimes ponder this issue myself. That is because here a national unity government is a very likely possibility. Perhaps the results of the next elections will require one again. This may be. After all, no one can predict exactly what will happen, and every side hopes that it will succeed more than the other. Yet you can't rule out the possibility. To set up a national unity government makes good sense, just as there was a lot of logic 3 and 1/2 years ago. I believe the experiment succeeded and that the idea justified itself in many areas—primarily in the economic sphere. This was an absolute necessity. To this very date, from the economic standpoint, we are enjoying the fruits of the step we took. In the last few days I checked figures indicating our economic development. They are very encouraging. They prompt us to pursue this course.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the other spheres?

[Shamir] As regards other areas, there is the political sphere. We have tried to overcome the gaps and differences of opinion by reaching agreements and laying down principles that will be binding on all of us. It did not work out because, in my opinion, one side violated these agreed upon rules. I do not think that the first thing we will attempt after the elections will be to establish a national unity government. We will try to do without one. But if there is no other alternative, we will have to seek ways to set up a better framework that will prevent the violation of agreements and will guarantee that whatever is agreed upon is honored, not broken. At the moment this sounds like a utopian vision, but I repeat: It may well be that the situation will demand this.

[Einstein] More on elections: Do you think there is justification for legislation that will prevent the appearance of parties like some that are represented in the current Knesset?

[Shamir] It is impossible to give an absolute yes or no to this. It depends on the circumstances, the specific case in question, the reasons.

[Einstein] If we talk about Kahane, for example?

[Shamir] Maybe. I am not a jurist, but if jurists say that legally and in terms of the essence of our laws there is no room for such a party, they will decide. This is a constitutional problem, not a political issue.

[Barqay] If that is the case, supposing Kahane runs for the Knesset and gets a certain number of seats, will you state that as the Likud leader you will under no circumstances be ready to rely on his vote in any future coalition?

[Shamir] First of all, when you talk about something like this, you must refer not only to Kahane. There is a very extremist party on the other side of the political spectrum, that of Mi'ari and his ilk. I believe that if such a thing happens, it will affect both ends of the spectrum.

As to your question, this is no longer a constitutional matter, but political. Again, it will depend on the circumstances. I would not like to think about, nor am I considering the possibility that Kahane will be included in a coalition to which I will be a partner.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, let me ask you something about the cabinet. Six months before the end of its term, it has again become bloated, assuming its gargantuan dimensions of yore. It leaves a bad taste in one's mouth.

[Shamir] It is not as if the cabinet is expanding. We have not, after all, appointed new ministers. We merely reinstated—for some time, until the end of the term—ministers who had already been in the cabinet, who had worked in the cabinet, but who left it. I do not regard this as something so deviant or illogical.

[Barqay] But, Mr Shamir, the cabinet's declared policy is to cut down on the civil service sector. Meanwhile, you are adding more ministers to the cabinet, or bringing them back into the fold, whatever you want to call it. This seems to contradict efficiency measures, seeing that there are seven ministers without portfolio, while three others are wearing two hats. This is not exactly a highly efficient institution.

[Shamir] I promise you that the addition of these two ministers will not detract from or add to efficiency. Efficiency can be achieved and we must pursue our efforts to do so. It does not conflict with their joining the government.

The fact that there are seven ministers without portfolio is the result of political developments. If it is good, necessary, or important to have political quiet, this must be done. Similar things happen in many democracies all over the world, and I do not think this is disastrous. There are far worse tragedies.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, what about the Inner Cabinet? Is this a positive element in the functioning of the government?

[Shamir] Without a doubt. Without a doubt.

[Ben-'Ami] Does not one side offset the other on too many occasions?

[Shamir] The Inner Cabinet is a political body in which it is possible to discuss security matters of supreme importance in an a political fashion. Very often the discussions in the Inner Cabinet are very substantial and to the point. Sometimes the votes are divided, but this does not always follow partisan affiliations. This is the best indication that the Inner Cabinet has proved its worth.

[Barqay] You said that after the elections each side will no doubt first want to set up a government in which it will be the main element. If the Likud wins these elections, do you think Ari'el Sharon would make a good candidate for defense minister?

[Shamir] I am not ruling out anyone, nor am I appointing anyone. I think it is too early to talk about appointments or roles that people will play. It is unrealistic at this point, nor is it advantageous right now. Yet let me state in advance that I rule out no one.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, we are nearing the end of this interview, and I would like to ask you something personal: It is the job of the prime minister, together with his close aides and in view of the fact that you preside over the Inner Cabinet and a cabinet that has so many ministers—the job of the one person who heads such a large operational establishment is to run it properly. Is this a difficult job? Do you find it easy to bear this burden?

[Shamir] I would be mistaken if I said it was easy. This may be the most difficult thing I have ever done in my life. Nevertheless, they say a sense of responsibility strengthens a man. One must stretch one's capability, and when one does it, one may also be expanding one's powers. Yet things do not necessarily have to be like this. Perhaps certain alterations and structural changes are necessary in Israel's national and governmental establishments so that the operational duties in the highest political echelon could be done more efficiently.

[Barqay] Since we mentioned health, please excuse this rather blunt question: Are you in completely sound health?

[Shamir] It is our health sector that is ailing. [laughter] I wish it were as healthy as I.

[Barqay] Mr Shamir, I realize you do not want to discuss personal matters and always prefer to refrain from talking about yourself. Nevertheless, as 'Oded mentioned a few minutes ago, the prime minister is often a lonely man. In the final analysis, there are often situations in which you find yourself alone with yourself and must make decisions that affect human life, too. How do you do that?

[Shamir] That is true. There are difficult moments, but a person must decide. As you said, there are certainly moments when the decision is purely yours. And even if you need to obtain the consent of others, you must first make your own decision. Those incapable of making a decision should not be in this job. Such a person should not step into these shoes.

But I am used to this from the past, although naturally not on such a grand scale. Still, this is one of the toughest aspects of the job.

[Einstein] Still on the personal plane, sir. Do you not feel like waking up one morning and just saying forget it, the burden is too heavy?

[Shamir] What man never entertains the thought of running far away to a place where he can see no one, be alone, and relax? I, too, have such moments. I have never tried it, though. I have never had a decent vacation in my life. [passage omitted]

Shamir on 'Uprising', Political Path, Terrorism

TA201935 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1842 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen on the occasion of Independence Day in the prime minister's residence on 20 April– videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ronen] There is no doubt that we are happy, especially on the eve of Independence Day. But if, Mr Prime Minister, you mentioned the past, perhaps there are people who are looking forward to turning the hands of the clock back by a decade to those days of euphoric elation when Al-Sadat visited Jerusalem and the Camp David Accords were signed. Perhaps there is a yearning for some sort of political initiative that would again lead to such an elevation of the spirit as in those days?

[Shamir] I would not say I am pondering the events of 10 years ago. If I delve into the past at all, then I conjure up memories of 40 years ago. The future, after all, also holds a promise of great events that will undoubtedly come.

[Ronen] As great as the Al-Sadat visit, for example?

[Shamir] Without a doubt.

[Ronen] Perhaps an Israeli initiative?

[Shamir] Undoubtedly. Such things will happen because peace will come. It must come. As we progress we become more mature, and the entire region, I hope, is better prepared for this eventuality. The stronger Israel grows, the greater the chances. We will yet experience the kind of events you have in mind.

[Ronen] Do you think that such events could come about at our initiative, which is to say that you could come out with a daring political initiative of your own, as prime minister of Israel, and suggest it to an Arab country?

[Shamir] If the proper conditions for this arise, if there is receptiveness—why not? This possibility is forever on our minds.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, we mentioned elation. But earlier this week, on Saturday and Sunday, the national spirits rose after the elimination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Without getting into classified information and other details about which you will no doubt prefer not to talk, do you think the liquidation of this archterrorist has contributed anything toward our war against terrorism or toward the quelling of the riots in the territories?

[Shamir] Why should you talk about such a thing? You know that I have avoided talking about it. There have been achievements, and there are problems. Why should we discuss such matters?

[Ronen] Without referring to the actual killing of Abu Jihad, do you think that the trend in terrorist acts is abating? Is the uprising in the territories on the decline?

[Shamir] Look, there is no question that terrorism has failed. For more than 30 years they have been trying to strike at us. [Words indistinct due to 1-second break in transmission] for them. They have failed bitterly and unequivocally.

Look, when I think about our thoughts shortly after the 1967 war, when the wave of terrorism first erupted, I recall that there was great concern as to how we would face up to it seeing that our country is open and there are so many Arabs here enjoying such vast opportunities to attack us. Additionally, we were not prepared for terrorism. Yet we overcame while they failed totally. The same also holds true today.

This is a new form of combat against us. Admittedly, we were ill-prepared for it, but we will overcome, it will pass.

[Ronen] When you say they failed completely, do you mean what is happening in the territories, what began 4 months ago?

[Shamir] No, I mean the waves of terrorism. After all, at that time—namely in 1968, 1969—many of us could not foresee any solution to the problem. Many asked how we could withstand this phenomenon. But as you can see, they did not succeed, they failed. We dealt them a serious, bitter blow. They failed in this, and they will also fail in the new phase of terrorism against us. It is impossible to achieve anything through violence against Israel.

[Ronen] If that is the case, what can you achieve politically? Allow me to, perhaps, recall a statement made by Secretary of State Shultz on one of his televised interviews. He said simply that two nations live in this land, and both of them want their own land. The Palestinians want a state, and the Israelis want one. The question is how these two nations' aspirations can be reconciled.

[Shamir] You cannot compare us to the Palestinians! The Palestinians are part of the Arab nation. The Arab nation has more than 20 countries. The Jewish people have only one state. The Palestinian problem does exist, and there is also the problem of Arab residents living in this country who nevertheless do not wish to live under our rule. This is a problem. We must find a solution for it, but who says that the solution must come in the form of a state? Besides, they have their own state!

[Ronen] If that is so, what is the solution? They will hear of nothing less than a state with certain border alterations. We will never settle for less than Greater Israel, at least in your conception. This is a dead-end situation.

[Shamir] We must have negotiations.

[Ronen] With whom? With the Palestinians?

[Shamir] With them too. When we, or rather Mr Begin, agreed more than 10 years ago to engage in negotiations with Egypt, the Jordanians, and the Palestinians, the idea was to find a solution to their problem. For some odd reason they terminated the negotiations. I think they have a very good reason to regret this move. We tell them that we are committed to that agreement. Let us resume the negotiations once again.

[Ronen] Can you, Mr Prime Minister, see any Palestinian leader coming to talk with you, or with you as prime minister, when you say a priori that we will sit on all of Eretz Yisra'el?

[Shamir] I say nothing a priori. I say let us conduct negotiations! I hope and believe that if we sit down at the negotiating table without preconditions we will find a solution. How did Mr Begin find the solution with Mr al-Sadat? Is anyone suggesting that Al-Sadat did not care about the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Arabs? Was he not an Arab patriot? Nevertheless, he reached an agreement with Mr Begin.

[Ronen] What you are saying, Mr Prime Minister, is that we have already made concessions by giving up the entire Sinai. You have said on various occasions that it is now the other side's turn to make concessions. What do you expect them to give up?

[Shamir] Do you want me to launch negotiations with you?

[Ronen] That will not bear much fruit, I am afraid.

[Shamir] I am prepared to engage in negotiations with the Arabs, with the Arab side.

[Ronen] In that case, Mr Prime Minister, it seems to me that you do not accept the thesis that we are in a dead-end situation. You do not believe that this state of affairs will actually continue for many days and years, as perhaps in the case of Northern Ireland where the people have learned to live with the situation.

[Shamir] No situation is a dead-end situation with no way out. I think that even in Ireland they may one day find a solution. I think we will reach a solution here, but it is necessary to view the reality of the problem. It is necessary to take our needs into consideration as well. But first of all the Arab side must accept our demand for direct negotiations. After all, this entails no concession! Why are they trying to evade this?

We are the only country in the region that repeatedly states: We are ready for negotiations. But no one comes up from the other side!

[Ronen] Seeing that this is the case, Mr Prime Minister, let me rephrase the question. Next year, Israel will have a new cabinet. In the United States there will also be a new administration. What do you intend to do to launch such negotiations with the Arab side under conditions that will not be worse than they are now, at a time when there is a sympathetic U.S. Administration?

[Shamir] I think the circumstances are favorable today, too, and will continue to be good in the future. The conditions are first of all dictated by the reality in the region. If the people of Israel are united, strong, and have faith in their justness, the other side will realize that it has no alternative but to come to the negotiating table. I will do everything to promote this possibility and make it happen as soon as possible. Thus, I will seek contacts and modes of persuasion, as I am doing even today.

[Ronen] Is there something concrete that you can point to on the road to launching negotiations, such as our initiative for the opening of negotiations?

[Shamir] Look, I have made several initiatives, but as long as they are not being acted upon officially, I cannot talk.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, 40 years ago, when statehood was first declared, David Ben-Gurion was known to have said: We want to be a singular nation and a light unto the nations. Nowadays we sometimes think that we are a nation just like the next one and not so special. What do you think we should do so that maybe, toward our 50th anniversary, we can realize this vision of being a unique nation, a model state?

[Shamir] Look, it is not enough to make resolutions to become a unique people. It takes more than a cabinet or Knesset session to decide that first we will be a singular nation and second we will be a light unto the nations. This is insufficient. It is necessary to live life and develop the country in a direction that will advance and strengthen it, raising the level of all the strata among us. We should strive to raise the level of education and science, as well as the level of relations among us. There are a lot of things that must be done. This is part of life, part of a lifestyle.

I believe that despite all the bickering and denigration, we are treading this path and making progress.

[Ronen] How do you envision the next 40 years?

[Shamir] There is no doubt in my mind, when I look at the younger generation, the generation that will succeed us, that it will be better than ours, and this is not an exaggeration. It is better than us in every respect and in every sense of the word. There is no doubt in my mind that it will be more successful than us, that it will make greater achievements in every area: political, military, economic, social, scientific, and technological. In the end the State of Israel will bloom, prosper, and progress.

[Ronen] This, Mr Prime Minister, sounds like an optimistic note most befitting the end of this holiday interview. I want to thank you for hosting us at your residence. I wish you and all the people of Israel a happy holiday.

[Shamir] I wish all the people of Israel a happy holiday. I extend the same wishes to the IDF, to our prisoners and MIA's, their families—in short, to all the people of Israel. Happy holiday!

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With U.S.

TA211430 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding on strategic and economic cooperation between Israel and the United States was held simultaneously in Jerusalem, where Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir signed the document; and in Washington, where U.S. President Ronald Reagan did so. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Frankel] The ceremony in the meeting hall in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem was festive, yet modest. The room was festooned with Israeli and U.S. flags. Members of the prime minister's office and U.S. Embassy personnel attended the ceremony.

The three-page document is called the Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the United States on Political, Security, and Economic Cooperation. It actually notes all the well-known understandings between the two countries in these areas, beginning with strategic cooperation through assistance to Third World countries. The main points are understandings worked out in the course of the past 4 or 5 years. During the ceremony Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that this memorandum will constitute the groundwork for future relations between the two friends:

[Shamir] This accord, which joins an existing network of agreements between the two countries in various areas, symbolizes the continuation of the positive development of relations between us. We are signing it with a feeling of satisfaction and happiness.

The United States was the first country to recognize Israel back in 1948, only minutes after we declared our independence. Therefore, there is great significance to the expression given today to the special ties between the two countries, which share values, goals, and the aspiration for peace. [passage omitted] [end recording]

USSR Foreign Ministry on Shevardnadze Tour

TA200832 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Apr pp 1, 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir yesterday repeated that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would be welcome in Israel. But Shevardnadze has "no precise plan" to visit the Middle East, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Shamir dismissed reports that there had been a change in Soviet policy.

In a telephone conversation with Moscow, deputy spokesman Vadim Perselyev [name as published] told THE POST that although Shevardnadze has been invited to visit several Arab countries, no dates have been set for a Middle East tour. Asked about the talks between Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, which are slated to begin Thursday, Persleyev said that the signing of the Afghan accords "permits us to work on other regional issues, including the Middle East."

The Soviet Embassy in Amman announced last week that Shevardnadze would tour the Middle East "soon," and Israeli officials have also said that such a visit is expected. But Perselyev said that the use of the word "soon" in the Amman statement was general and did not indicate a precise plan. The spokesman declined to comment on the possibility of a visit by Shevardnadze to Israel, saying that "the question has not been put to us."

Shamir told the ASSOCIATED PRESS yesterday that a visit to Israel "would be helpful for us, and I think it could be helpful also for the Soviets." Shamir said both Shevardnadze and Shultz had signalled their intentions to visit the Middle East in the coming weeks though no details had been finalized. Perselyev said that in the context of a Middle East settlement, the Afghan accords highlighted the constructive role played by the UN and the possibility of superpower guarantees for agreements.

The Soviet Union, he said, believes that the Middle East conflict could be solved "if all the parties, including the PLO, participate in an equal manner." He said that the Soviet view of the international conference was "understood" in the Arab world and was gaining acceptance in other parts of the world.

Perselyev said that Secretary-General Gorbachev's statements on the need to recognize Israel's existence and security concerns did not constitute a change in Soviet policy. "It is our well-known position."

He said that members of the Soviet consular group in Tel Aviv and Soviet officials at the UN have had "some contacts" with Israeli officials to disucss "precise questions." He did not know when the Israeli consular group would arrive in Moscow, professing ignorance of any Soviet delay in the granting of visas. Israel requested visas for four diplomats over a month ago, but has yet to receive a reply.

Agreement Reached With Norway on Heavy Water Use

TA191757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Israel is ready to reach a future agreement that would transfer supervision of the use of heavy water to the International Atomic Energy Agency. The above was reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami. A delegation from Norway today rounded up 2 days of talks on supervision over the use of the heavy water Norway had sold Israel. The two sides reached an agreement on the framework for Norwegian supervision of the matter. Our correspondent points out that the fact that the IAEA was mentioned in this context at the close of this round of talks is significant because Israel has never signed the international nuclear nonproliferation convention.

4 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With SLA

TA201125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Four terrorists were killed this morning in a clash with South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers on the edge of the security zone. An SLA soldier was killed and three

others were wounded. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that last night SLA soldiers detected a group of some 15 terrorists who were on their way to perpetrate an attack in the security zone. The SLA soldiers opened fire and killed four of them, while the rest fled toward the village of Maydun, a bastion of radical Shi'ites north of the security zone. Security sources in the north this morning noted the professional prowess displayed by the SLA soldiers during this encounter with the terrorists.

Bar-Lev Examines Possibilities of War With Arabs

TA201418 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Apr 88 pp 1, 5

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] "If the Arab countries attack us with gas, and I do not rule out such a grave event, we will be prepared."

"The terrible scenes from the Iran-Iraq war will not be seen here in Israel," Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said in an interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Bar-Lev added: "I would only like to advise Syria and the other Arab countries to be very careful because they will get clobbered on the head and will regret having attacked us. We are stronger than they. I am prepared to disclose today that we are also prepared to defend the civilian population against a gas attack."

The former chief of staff also said: "Syria has recently been building up its forces. It has not abandoned the path of war and the hope of a total victory against us on the battle front. Its leaders have not abandoned the idea of a Greater Syria. Syria has announced that it wants to reach military parity with Israel. Syria has already decided that it will try again to defeat Israel in war. Its leaders do not yet understand that they cannot gain anything through force and that Israel is much stronger than Syria.

If Syria does initiate a war against Israel in the near future it will be beaten and will suffer a stinging blow on the battle field.

"The next war might, if it breaks out, hit our civilian population. That is correct. But if the Arab countries use long-range missiles against us, they should be aware that we also have some excellent measures to use against them. If they think they can win a war in this way they are mistaken. Fire power on its own has never won a war. It is true that we would suffer casualties and damage—but that is not the decisive factor. Our retaliation will be much more devastating.

"Nevertheless, I am worried about the missiles which were recently deployed against us. But they do not threaten our existence, they do not pose a threat to Israel's existence. We have the deterrent force to prevent the use of missiles against us. We will destroy their aircraft on the ground and in the air. The Syrians and their friends would do much better to think hard before they try to attack us with missiles and gas, and to try to initiate a war against us because we will get them."

Bar-Lev disclosed that there are enough gas masks in the emergency warehouses for Israel's entire civilian population. "There are enough shelters in Israel to hide from a gas attack, and anyway our population is more intelligent than that of Iran and Iraq. It knows about sealing homes and defending itself against a gas attack. There will not be any scenes of thousands of bodies lying in the streets if we are attacked by gas. I am convinced of that."

Minister Bar-Lev summarized by stressing that the Arab countries around Israel—who is much stronger—can reach an arrangement with Israel only around the negotiating table. "We invite them to the negotiating table because if they are tempted to use chemicals against us in a war, they will pay for it very dearly indeed, much more than they can imagine."

Minister Bar-Lev concluded by warning that if the situation in the territories and the deadlock in the political process continues "the peace with Egypt will also deteriorate. I believe the current peace with Egypt is endangered if the current deadlock continues. If Israel continues to again and again say no, Egypt will not be able to maintain its present framework of relations with Israel in the future. I do not, however, see Egypt fighting against Israel at this stage," Bar-Lev said.

IDF Operating Detention Center Near Jerusalem

TA200904 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Due to the large number of detainees in the territories, the IDF has set up a new detention center, called "Little Ansar." The installation was established near the 'Ofer camp in the Givat Ze'ev area north of Jerusalem, and is now populated by detainees and prisoners suspected of participating in disturbances.

An additional detention center for detainees and prisoners will be opened in the coming days. When this new detention center opens, "Little Ansar" will be closed and the inmates will be transferred to Megiddo.

In the meantime the detention center at Qezi'ot, which has thousands of inmates, is continuing to operate. The commander of Qezi'ot prison, Lieutenant Colonel David Zemah, was promoted to the rank of colonel yesterday.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Update on Events 20 Apr

TA201439 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] A soldier was slightly injured in Ramallah from a stone thrown at him during a riot. In 'Anabta, two local residents who tried to attack IDF soldiers and snatch their personal weapons were injured. IDF presence in Judaea and Samaria was beefed up today. In Nabulus, 'Anabta, and 15 other refugee camps the curfew is still in force. Other cities are still closed military zones. In fact, the entire area of Judaea and Samaria is closed off and its inhabitants have been forbidden to leave their homes until after the Independence Day holiday.

Meanwhile, a full commercial strike was observed today except for the wholesale market in Hebron and some areas in Janin, where local Arabs ran temporary stalls. The government offices and municipalities operated normally.

The security forces were forced to use tear gas and rubber bullets this afternoon to disperse a march in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. Dozens of youths rioted there after prayers in the local mosque. They threw stones and the soldiers dispersed them without causing any injuries. This was the only incident in the Gaza Strip today which was otherwise generally quiet. Most of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip are under curfew but the Civilian Administration eased the curfew conditions and allowed the local population in all the refugee camps to go out to buy foodstuffs.

[Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 20 April adds that "in the course of a riot in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, several local residents were hurt and some were transferred to the hospital in Ashqelon. There are still no conclusive reports on their numbers or condition."]

1 Killed in 'Violent' Riots

TA201746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] At the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, a local resident was killed today and another wounded when the army broke up a violent demonstration of hundreds of people. One man died on the operating table at Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon, and the other is in critical condition. Palestinian sources say 12 people were injured. One soldier was injured in the face by a stone.

In Ramallah, another soldier was hit in the face by a stone during disturbances there. Three Arabs were injured today during violent demonstrations in Judaea and Samaria.

Leaflet on Al-Wazir Murderers

TA210420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Another leaflet, No 14, was released in the territories yesterday on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The leaflet accuses Israel of murdering Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and says the Palestinians will not forget until they avenge his death and until they fly their flag in Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state.

124 Arabs Killed in Unrest

TA181340 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Apr 88 p 4

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] Some 124 Arabs have been killed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, senior defense establishment officials reported yesterday at the weekly cabinet session. The defense minister, the police affairs minister, and the chief of staff reviewed last week's events in the territories at length. They said that on the one hand a certain measure of tranquility could be discerned last week due to the fact that whole areas did not register any disturbances, although the number of disturbances had been similar to that of previous weeks.

On the other hand, particularly over the weekend, a few serious incidents took place following the news about the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] which resulted in a relatively high number of casualties. The defense minister and the chief of staff emphasized that the defense establishment is going to great lengths to see to it that Abu Jihad's death does not bring about a resurgence of violence.

The speakers categorically denied the figures released by various hostile elements according to which over 200 Arabs have been killed in the territories since the beginning of the uprising. "The exact number is 124 dead, no more than that," the ministers were told. It was emphasized that the defense establishment checks and investigates every death in the territories to ascertain that it was caused as a result of the riots.

Some of the people reported killed by IDF gunfire and beatings and or asphyxiated by tear gas did not die as a result of the riots, while some of them did not even die but were merely wounded, the ministers were told.

The police affairs minister said there had been a relatively low number of incidents in the Arab sector in Israel over the past week. In the Northern District, where there had been a relatively high number of irregular incidents in previous weeks, there was not even one such incident this past week.

The cabinet was also given a detailed report about the clash between an IDF unit and a terrorist gang on the northern border and about the measures adopted by the IDF on the Lebanese border.

Israeli Sentenced for Planned Attack on Arabs

TA201132 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Moshe Vinocur, who admitted to charges of possessing a LAW [light antitank weapon] missile in order to attack Arabs, has been sentenced to 2 years in prison and given a 2-year suspended sentence. Our correspondent Yasmin Qeyni reports that Judge Arye Even-Ari accepted prosecutor Helena Beilin's argument about the need to deter criminals who operate out of ideological reasons. I would sentence him to 7 years in prison, but I will be lenient because the weapon was not used, the judge noted.

IDF Role in Territories 'Serious' Financial Toll

TA171616 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
17 Apr 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Shraga Meckel]

[Text] The activities of the security forces and the IDF in the territories since the beginning of the riots in December have exacted a serious financial toll. The Defense Ministry sets the price tag so far at 400 million Israeli shekels. The IDF's operations in the territories have brought training programs to a standstill and, consequently, 150 million shekels have been "saved."

The Defense Ministry is asking the Treasury to finance the difference by adding 250 million shekels to the defense budget. The Finance Ministry has not yet made up its mind how to react to this demand. Its position will be formulated upon Minister Nisim's return from abroad at the end of the month, but it is believed that the Treasury will propose that the Defense Ministry absorb these outlays at the expense of other items. A senior Treasury source told MA'ARIV: "We will do everything we can not to touch the general reserve in the state budget."

Industry 'Marginally' Affected by Unrest

TA180432 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli industry has been affected only marginally by the unrest in the territories. This is the conclusion of an inquiry carried out by the director general of the Industry Ministry, the president of the Industrialists Association, and the president of the Chambers of Commerce. Of 180 factories checked, only half were found to have commercial ties with the territories. For those companies doing business in the territories, losses were only 1 percent of yearly earnings. Textile factories were hurt the most and will receive compensation from the government.

Editorial Calls Al-Wazir Killers 'Foes of Peace'

TA201833 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
18 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Palestinian Pride Will Not Be Shaken"]

[Text] In the early morning hours of the day before yesterday a criminal and treacherous hand made an attempt on the life of the Palestinian leader "Abu Jihad" [Khalil al-Wazir] at his home in Tunis. He died a martyr away from home and in the diaspora.

This is a grave loss for the Palestinian people who, through their long struggle, have become accustomed to offering martyrs who serve as beacons for illuminating the path leading to freedom and independence. We say this is a grave loss because "Abu Jihad" was the type of person to whom the quality of "a man in a nation and a nation in a man" applies. His life's record, replete with unforgettable positions, testifies to this glorious quality.

There are, however, 2 questions which must be posed:

1. Was the assassination of "Abu Jihad" a step forward in the issue of peace?

2. And did those who assassinated him, just as they have killed many others, believe that the Palestinian people will eventually be overcome by despair and frustration and will retreat from their insistence on attaining their legitimate rights?

Civilized logic rejects this savage and barbaric method because those who pursue it are the real foes of peace and have nothing in common with civilization. Regardless of their efforts they cannot succeed in achieving their evil and odious intentions. Even though the killers were able to liquidate "Abu Jihad" physically, they will never be able to eliminate him as a giant symbol of the Palestinian cause.

As to the Palestinian people, calamities—and "Abu Jihad's" martyrdom is at the top of these calamities—will only increase their persistence and pride. They will persist in seeking to live freely and honorably in their homeland, enjoying their inalienable legitimate rights. Their pride will serve as an example to the world and its nations, spreading worldwide hope.

This is the reality of which the Palestinian people are aware in all its details. This is the secret for the survival of these people who are a source of challenge and sacrifice for the sake of life and peace and for defeating the enemies of peace.

Deportations Seen Exacerbating Situation
TA201856 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
20 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "What Does Continuation of These Measures Mean?"]

[Text] Yesterday's deportation of 8 youths from the occupied territories is a new link in a series of measures carried out for 20 years by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian residents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These measures have escalated recently.

In reality, the continual adoption of these measures, particularly those relating to deportation, will not serve the cause of peace but rather will lead to further complication of matters and will aggravate the situation in the occupied territories.

In addition to this, international laws, represented by the 4th Geneva Convention as well as UN and Security Council resolutions and those of other international bodies, forbid and strongly oppose resorting to such extremely harsh and painful measures during occupation.

The Middle East region, and specifically the Palestinian problem, are in need of a just solution that will bring about lasting peace for everyone. This cannot be achieved except by exerting sincere and practical efforts toward this end.

So that the opportunity for achieving the desired peace may become available, eventually one must listen to the voice of the Palestinian people and allow them to gain their legitimate rights, rather than ignoring these people and endeavoring to silence them by various means of which deportation from the homeland is one kind. For how long will the Israeli authorities recklessly pursue the so-called "iron fist" policy which can never serve the cause of peace?

Husayn Phones Kuwaiti Amir on Iranian Actions

JN201745 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn telephoned his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti amir, seeking reassurance on the situation in fraternal Kuwait and voicing Jordan's support and backing for Kuwait's security, independence, and sovereignty in the face of Iranian provocations. His majesty the king also congratulated his highness the Kuwaiti amir on the safety of the passengers of the Kuwaiti plane which was hijacked by a number of terrorists.

His highness the Kuwaiti amir voiced his thanks for His Majesty King Husayn and his appreciation of the fraternal, constant pan-Arab stands voiced by Jordan out of its belief in the unity of the Arab nation's pan-Arab security.

Prime Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia

JN201753 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Amman for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this afternoon carrying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the fraternal bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

Al-Rifa'i was seen off at Amman airport by a number of cabinet ministers and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

Delivers Message, Returns

JN211037 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman at dawn today after delivering a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of Saudi Arabia, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and the current Arab situation.

AL-MUSTAQBAL Cites Al-Rifa'i on Shultz Tour

JN191716 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 16 Apr 88 pp 26, 27

[Text] Amman—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Amman for the United States on 8 April at the end of his third tour of the countries in the region. Three hours later, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with the Jordanian journalists in the Ministry of Information in the presence of Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah to brief them on the smallest details of what had taken place during the three visits Shultz paid to Jordan. He also briefed them on what could be described as the minutes of the talks between the U.S. official and the Jordanian officials, particularly with King Husayn and himself.

AL-MUSTAQBAL attended this lengthy meeting and participated in asking questions and discussing the talks which Shultz had described as very exhausting but constructive.

At the beginning of the meeting, the paper listing the Jordanian principles was distributed to the journalists. This paper was handed to the U.S. secretary of state and contains six points defining Jordan's stand on the U.S. initiative. Al-Rifa'i said that Jordan will decide what stand it will adopt in light of the response of the U.S. initiative to these points.

The journalists noticed that Al-Rifa'i was speaking with great confidence. This gave them the impression that the Jordanian side had succeeded during its talks with Shultz to remain committed to its stands and that it had not been influenced by the carrot and stick policy that the U.S. negotiator tried to use to wrest from the Jordanian side concessions or to make it abandon stands that Washington wants it to relinquish.

Contrary to the longstanding belief that the U.S. negotiator is a proficient negotiator, Al-Rifa'i stressed that he was surprised at the naivete Shultz and the team of experts accompanying him had shown during the talks. He said: The members of the U.S. delegation believe that what Israel puts forth should be discussed and agreed on. But when we ask them detailed questions, they reply: We do not know. They then listen to us and we feel that their stand can be changed.

Al-Rifa'i then began reading the text of the six points. He paused at every point to explain the circumstances surrounding each and to elaborate on the many questions each raises.

He began with the first point which stipulates the following: The inadmissibility of the occupation of the territory of others by war. Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory is the basis of a settlemenet of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

Commenting on this point, Al-Rifa'i said that a sincere and real move toward a settlement must start with withdrawal. But the U.S. side adheres to Israel's stand. We told Shultz that withdrawal means a pull out by the Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, not as Shamir told the U.S. side when he said that Israel withdrew from Sinai, thus implementing the condition of withdrawal from Arab "territories" as stipulated in the English version of Resolution No 242. All clauses of this resolution must be implemented. It applies to all Arab territories, so that withdrawals, not only one withdrawal— that from Sinai as Shamir wants—must be achieved.

The second point of the "Jordanian principles statement" states that "a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires settling the Palestine question in all its aspects, including the Palestinian people's right to self determination."

On this point, Al-Rifa'i said: Resolution No 242 does not handle the Palestinian question, but talks about removing the occupation and about a conflict between Israel and Arab countries whose territories were occupied. This means that Resolution No 242 obliterates the Palestinian question. The Palestinian people are referred to as a group of refugees, not as a people who have a cause and a homeland. During the talks, King Husayn managed to firm up the U.S. conviction that a "Palestinian cause" exists that is the basis of the conflict. The mere occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is not the basis of the conflict, but there are other rights. What about the 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon? What about the Palestinians of 1948? The issue is not that of a conflict between Jordan and Israel, between Lebanon and Israel, or between Syria and Israel. It is a single comprehensive issue, the issue of the Palestinian people. All other aspects are only details.

The third point of the six-point statement states that "a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question must be comprehensive. A comprehensive settlement can only be attained through the convening of an international conference."

The Jordanian prime minister commented on this point saying: There can be no solution to an Arab problem with Israel in isolation of the Palestinian question. This means that what we need is a collective and comprehensive solution, not individual solutions. We need a solution that includes all the parties (Jordan, Syria, and the PLO). The solution must include the Palestinian people's right to self determination. The United States says it is against this right because it means to Washington the establishment of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, something that neither Israel nor the United States accepts. This was a point of disagreement beween Jordan and the PLO.

Al-Rifa'i said that Jordan supports the right to self-determination. This is a natural right and not a right to be granted. But the PLO says that this right to self-determination deals with the establishment of a state and not with any other options. The PLO also adds that the state should be under the PLO. We can understand that the PLO decides under whose leadership this state should be after the exercise of the right to self-determination but not before. Should this right to self-determination be exercised by the people living under occupation or those living in the diaspora? If this right also applies to those in the diaspora, how could it be exercised?

The fourth point says: The international conference will not be a mere ceremonial international gathering whose sole purpose is to begin direct talks. The conference must reflect the moral and secure weight of the five permanent member states of the Security Council in assisting the parties to the conflict to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

On this point, Al-Rifa'i said: The Americans were surprised when King Husayn refused to go to Washington to meet Reagan and Gorbachev during their recent summit and to meet also with the Israeli prime minister. They said: What more than this international umbrella does King Husayn want? However, in spite of this, we said no. They replied: Very well, you can have the international conference but this conference should replace the proposal for a ceremonial meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev. We refused. We said that the international conference cannot be a ceremonial gathering and it cannot have the sole objective of beginning direct talks. Al-Rifa'i added: Fraternal Syria's stand was completely in line with our stand, as well as the stand of the USSR. We want an effective international conference that will enjoy full prerogatives.

The fifth point says: The principles of Security Council Resolution 242 apply to all occupied Arab territory and are the basis of negotiations in the bilateral committees. As principles, they are not negotiable in these committees.

On this point, Al-Rifa'i said that the prerogatives of the international conference are not completely clear. We may not know what the U.S. and Israeli sides want from these prerogatives but we know very well the aspects to which we can never agree. We sensed some development in the U.S. stand in this respect. We also sensed during the last 2 days of the talks that Washington has become convinced that its formulation of the international conference is not suitable. We discussed this issue with the Soviet side, the British Government, the French Government, and with the PRC. We also discussed it with Damascus. We sensed that there is an understanding of our viewpoint, particularly from Syria. Syria now fully realizes the importance of what we say.

We used to believe that it should be the international conference that decides the principles and the bases. However, after a profound study of the matter we realized that the conference cannot be the decision-maker, for what will guarantee the implementation of any decision made by the international conference when the other decisions—that is the resolutions adopted by the Security Council in all its members—are not being implemented. How can the conference compel a state to implement its decisions? What would happen if the conference makes a decision against the sides that reject the resolutions? If the purpose of the conference is to give the five UN Security Council permanent member states the right to make the decisions, then why should the parties to the conflict be present? Why should not the five states negotiate among themselves and impose the decisions they make upon the parties to the conflict.

The last and most important point is the sixth. The sixth point discusses Palestinian participation in the international conference. It states: "As a sovereign and independent state Jordan is prepared to attend the international conference together with the other parties concerned. Jordan will not represent the Palestinian people at the conference and will not negotiate over a settlement of the Palestine question on behalf of the PLO. Jordan is prepared to attend the conference in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the parties concerned should agree to such an arrangement."

With regard to this point Al-Rifa'i says: There are three situations to which Jordan agrees with regard to the delegation that attends the international conference. These are: 1. An independent delegation for each side or state, and that means an independent Jordanian delegation. 2. A joint Arab delegation, and that is what Syria proposes. It agrees to a joint Arab delegation if this is possible. 3. A joint Jordanian-PLO delegation, with one half of its members Jordanians, and the other half from the PLO. We say this and we realize that the conference cannot be convened without Israel, the United States, or the Soviet Union. We also realize that the formula of a joint Arab delegation is impossible. Who will head such a delegation? Will it be Chedli Klibi for instance? Can such a delegation be divided into parts within the bilateral committees that will be formed? Will a particular Arab state have the right to make decisions within such committees?

Zayd al-Rifa'i adds: When we talk about a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation we do not mean Palestinian individuals within the delegation, but we are talking about two delegations. We explained that to the Americans. We said to them that the delegation's "label" will read "The Jordanian/Palestinian delegation," and that the invitation to attend the international conference should be addressed to the Jordanian Government and the PLO Executive Committee. When we talk about Palestinian repesentation we mean the PLO.

In conclusion Al-Rifa'i says: Moscow and Washington, in coordination with the UN secretary general, have to prepare the draft of the invitation to attend the international conference. So far Shultz has not brought the text of the invitation. However, Shultz has said that the "U.S. initiative" which he proposed in the area is merely a skeleton that needs to grow flesh before it takes its final shape. That can be achieved through dialogue, and by asking questions and answering them. That is why Shultz left us asserting that he will return to the area after his forthcoming meeting with Shevardnadze. We have not responded to his initiative with either "no" or "yes," for we cannot bear the onus of the failure of the U.S. initiative. We are prepared to continue the dialogue for the longest period possible, as long as we hold on to our firm principled stands expressed by the six-point document.

Information Minister on Shultz Remarks, Plan

JN200920 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
16 Apr 88 pp 22-25

[By Sulayman Nimr]

[Excerpts] Prior to the latest tour of the area by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and after the Israeli Prime Minister's visit to Washington last month, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated to AL-MUSTAQBAL when he was in Amman for the Islamic foreign minister's meeting: "George Shultz said he will twist Yitzhaq Shamir's arm and make him accept the proposed U.S. plan to settle the Middle East crisis. However, it appears after Shamir's visit to Washington that it is the Israeli enemy's prime minister Shamir who twisted Shultz' arm and rejected his initiative. This confirms that the U.S. stand cannot but be biased toward Israel.... If Shultz returns to the area he will try to gain acceptance for his plan in accordance with Israel's views and not in accordance with the Arabs' views." The truth of what the Syrian foreign minister said has been confirmed, and what he predicted has happened. This was revealed by the U.S. secretary of state's statements in Amman, statements that exposed the truth about the U.S. stand's total bias toward Israel.

Jordan—which was anxious not to create any obstacles in the way of Shultz' mission and indeed welcomed the efforts of the U.S. secretary of state and expected U.S. pressure on Israel to make it announce its acceptance of Shultz' proposals and to then declare its stand on the proposals—was suprised by the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state to the editors of Jordanian newspapers. In these statements Shultz affirmed the three no's: No to Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territory occupied in 1967, no to an independent Palestinian state, and no to PLO participation in the negotiations for a settlement.

Everyone in Jordan was taken aback by these statements. The Jordanian papers did not publish the U.S. secretary of state's remarks. Jordanian officials concluded that broadcasting Shultz' remarks, which were also included in a television interview, would arouse anger among Jordanian public opinion.

In his interview with AL-MUSTAQBAL Jordanian Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah further explains the Jordanian stand on Shultz' initiative.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is the story of the U.S. secretary of state's remarks in Amman. Did he really say that he adheres to the three no's: No to Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territory occupied in 1967, no to PLO participation, and no to an independent Palestinian state?

Minister al-Khasawinah: Yes, he said that at his news conference with the editors in chief of Jordanian newspapers. He said the same thing earlier in Israel. Consequently, the editors in chief of the Jordanian newspapers agreed not to publish his words. We on our side, notwithstanding our welcome for the efforts of the United States and the contribution of its secretary of state in attempting to search for peace because we wanted Mr Shultz to come and listen to the Arab view and because we wanted Mr Shultz' mission in Jordan to succeed, we concluded that broadcasting the statements he made to the newspaper editors would not serve the peace process.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do not you think that his statements conflict with his own plan?

Minister al-Khasawinah: We do not want to start a hot argument with the United States, which is the most important party, by accusing it of taking a conflicting stand. But we hope that our adherence to the principles we have announced, the efforts exerted by our Arab brothers, and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people will convince the United states that it is in the interest of peace, Arab-U.S. relations, and the United States itself to abide by Security Council Resolution No 242. In other words, these interests lie in a clear commitment to a withdrawal from the occupied Arab territoreis in accordance with the principles announced by His Majesty King Husayn.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is Jordan's stand on Shultz' initiative?

Minister al-Khasawinah: Jordan's stand on Shultz' proposals is the stand announced by His Majesty King Husayn in his message to George Shultz following his lengthy talks in London and Amman and following Shultz' talks with Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How do you assess Jordanan's relations with the PLO?

Minister al-Khasawinah: As affirmed by His Majesty King Husayn, we in Jordan are concerned about maintaining sound relations with all the Arab parties, including the PLO. During his dialogue with George Shultz, King Husayn insisted that invitations be extended to all Arab parties to convene an international conference.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The Arab parties, and not the Arab countries, as Shultz wants.

Minister al-Khasawinah: Yes, the Arab parties, not the Arab countries. We are concerned about maintaining sound relations with all the Arab parties, and we briefed the PLO on our contacts before and after Shultz' visit.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Are you trying to resume coordination with the PLO?

Minister al-Khasawinah: In fact we are seeking only one thing, coordination of the Arab stand in light of the pan-Arab interests. We do not want to compete with any party, including the PLO, to represent the Palestinian people.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is Jordan's position on Algeria's call for convening an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the uprising?

Minister al-Khasawinah: In principle, we call for an annual Arab summit conference, and King Husayn's diplomatic efforts, contacts, and tours of the Arab countries nearly every 2 months are aimed at stressing the importance of coordination of the Arab stands.

We support any Arab summit conference, and we will never be against any such conference to discuss any urgent Arab issue. At the same time, we believe calling for such a summit and protecting the summit institution require as much time and quiet consultation as possible. [passage omitted]

'Court of the Oppressed' To Try Higgins

NC211030 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 21 (AFP)—A kidnapped U.S. Marine officer is to appear before a "court of the oppressed" on Thursday, his captors announced in a communique here.

The statement, delivered to a Western news agency, said the "interrogation" of Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins had ended and that he would now be "tried for espionage against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, for the benefit of the United States, and for his participation in plots against our Moslem people."

The communique was accompanied by a black and white photograph of the officer in which he appeared tired and thin, with a beard of several days' growth.

The statement said Lt.-Col. Higgins, whom it described as a "criminal," would appear before a "court of the oppressed, which will judge him for his crimes."

The U.S. officer, a Vietnam veteran, was seized in southern Lebanon February 17 while serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

The abduction was later claimed by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, a group that first surfaced in 1985 when it claimed it had kidnapped and executed nine Lebanese Jews.

The statement accused Lt.-Col. Higgins of having directed a U.S. Defense Department team that worked against "Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic organizations."

He was specifically charged with "collecting information and presenting reports on the military situation in southern Lebanon, notably on the activities of the anti-Israeli resistance."

Lt.-Col. Higgins, according to the statement, was part of a "coordinating committee" grouping representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department and the State Department specializing in Lebanese and Palestinian affairs.

His role was to "arrange the establishment of an intelligence network in southern Lebanon," according to the communique.

The pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalist movement Hizballah announced its backing for the kidnapping, while the more moderate pro-Syrian group Amal condemned it and made efforts to locate Lt.-Col. Higgins.

Syrian Discusses French Hostages With Kidnappers

NC201544 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] 'Imran Adham, a Syrian businessman who has close connections with President al-Asad, has stated that there are positive indications that three French hostages held in Lebanon may be released within the next few days. He added that he cannot say anything more.

Adham disclosed that he had visited Beirut Tuesday evening for talks with the kidnappers. He denied holding talks with Amal, stating that his contacts were with other persons, including members of the Islamic Jihad.

Al-Jumayyil Congratulates Kuwait, Algeria

NC210558 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil sent a cable last night to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, in which he conveyed Lebanon's congratulations on the ending of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and the safe release of its passengers. Al-Jumayyil expressed his admiration for the wise and responsible policy pursued by Kuwait in dealing with the deplorable incident.

The president also sent a similar cable to the Algerian president praising the Algerian efforts, which led to the aircraft incident ending happily.

Shi'ite 'Dispute' Cause of Hijacking Failure

NC210950 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Quoting an Arab diplomat, REUTER reports that a dispute between pro-Iranian and pro-Syrian Shi'ite factions in Lebanon was responsible for the failure of the plan of the air pirates who hijacked a Kuwaiti plane and attempted to land it at Beirut airport.

Lebanese Forces Plot To Kill Birri Reported

NC201827 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] At a news conference this afternoon, the Amal Movement's security services presented Safiyah al-Tufayli, a young woman whom the Lebanese Forces hired to assassinate Minister Nabih Birri. The assassination was to have been carried out by means of a jacket rigged with explosives.

Safiyah disclosed that she was born in 1967 in Shmistar, and now lives in Al-Raml al-'Ali in Burj al-Barajinah. She had visited East Beirut twice with the help of a man named 'Abbas al-Tufayli.

'Abbas, Safiyah revealed, had introduced her to a certain person who identified himself as Brigadier General Haddad of the Lebanese Forces security services. Haddad

had asked her to take a picture of Minister Nabih Birri with a camera which he said was inside a jacket which he would give her. Safiyah said the jacket was equipped with a certain button which she was instructed to push when she was less than 1 meter from Minister Nabih Birri.

Safiyah al-Tufayli said she had visited East Beirut twice and was given a sum of 3,000 Lebanese pounds. She had been promised another $250 upon completion of the mission.

'Resistance' Operations Reported in South

NC201817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Resistance fighters have carried out several attacks against the Israeli occupation forces and the agent Lahd militias during the past 24 hours. Resistance men shelled a Lahd position on Jabal Safi with rockets this morning. Lahd positions in the Jabal Safi and Sujud Hills responded by intensively shelling Jba', Jarju', 'Arab Salim, and the vicinity of Habbush. No casualties were reported in the shelling, which ended at 1115.

The Lebanese Resistance Groups—Amal announced that a section of its Karbala' Company ambushed an enemy patrol on the (Turrah)-Al-Suwayda' road at 1000 today. The group then attacked the patrol with machineguns and rockets.

Meanwhile, Amal artillery shelled Lahd positions in (Turrah) and Al-Suwayda' with 120-mm mortars. The extent of enemy losses could not be determined because of the security cordon imposed by the Zionist forces. The attacking group returned safely to base.

6 Syrians Reported Killed in Tripoli Blast

NC210713 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Front has announced its responsibility for an explosion near a Syrian occupation forces post in the Abu Samra' area of Tripoli at 0330 today. According to a spokesman for the Front, the explosion left six Syrian soldiers dead, including two high-ranking ones, and several others wounded.

Intermittent Clashes on Beirut Lines 20 Apr

NC210549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] It was an extremely hot night on the traditional contact lines in Beirut and along the old Sidon road. There were intermittent clashes throughout the night. RPG's, antiaircraft guns, and, occasionally, mortars were used. The exchanges of fire were concentrated on the Al-Matahin, Galerie, Sim'an, Mar Mikha'il, Mazda, Al-Yasu'iyah, and Gaumont Palace lines. Explosions could still be heard in Beirut and its suburbs until 0600 today.

There was also a limited security setback on the Suq al-Gharb combat line yesterday evening.

Communists, Al-Mahayiri Group Clash in North

NC201802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] A fierce clash took place between members of the Syrian Social National Party—the Al-Mahayiri group—and the Communist Party in the Amyun al-Kurah area in the north this evening. The fighting ensued after some communists distributed leaflets calling for support for tomorrow's general strike. Syrian Army forces intervened, deployed in the area, and detained some of the parties' supporters. Red Cross sources reported that two persons were killed and another was wounded.

PLO Leaders Attend Khalil al-Wazir Funeral

JN201618 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The funeral of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces who was assassinated by the Israeli intelligence in Tunis last Saturday, was held today. The funeral procession ended at the martyr's cemetery in the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus. The following participated in the funeral: Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, assistant secretary of the Algerian FLN Party; Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, member of the Ba'th Party National Command; Comrade Sa'id Hammadi, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; Khalid al-Fahum, [former] PNC speaker; Marwan Dudin, Jordanian occupied territories affairs minister; Ahmad Karoui, director of the Destourian Democratic Rally in Tunisia; Habib 'Ammar, Tunisian minister of interior; 'Abdallah Barakat, YAR interior minister; Bahi al-Adgham, former Tunisian prime minister; Lakhder Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League; and Dr Muhammad al-Farra, the Arab League delegation member.

Also present were: Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and the deceased's wife, sons, and relatives.

Also present were: Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Al-Sa'iqah Forces; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party; and 'Abd al-Muhsayn Abu Mayzar, Talal Naji, Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad Yamani], Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashahshibi, Muhammad Khalifah, Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], Sulayman al-Najjab, Hani al-Hasan, Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Salih Ra'fat, and Rafiq al-Natshah; Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu al-Adib; Khalid 'Abd al-Majid; and 'Umar al-Shihabi. A number of representatives from the Palestinian revolution factions; the National Lebanese Movement; Syrian, Arab, and foreign parties and progressive forces; representatives of world liberation movements; representatives of the Palestinian popular organizations; a number of Arab and foreign diplomatic corps members; and crowds of Syrian and Palestinian citizens.

The funeral procession began this morning from the Al-Muwasah Hospital where a memorial ceremony was held. A group of Palestine Liberation Army officers carried the martyr's coffin, which was wrapped in the Palestinian flag, and placed it on caisson. The procession then moved to the Martyrs' Cemetery in the Al-Yarmuk Camp, passing through streets in Damascus and the camp amid crowds of shouting Syrian and Palestinian masses who called for escalating the armed struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territory and to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Party Official Speaks

JN201720 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1521 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus—Comrade Sa'id Hammadi, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, delivered the party's address at the funeral of Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, at the Al-Yarmuk Refugee Camp in Damascus. Hammadi affirmed our pride in martyrdom because it means sacrifice and represents an omen of victory. Hammadi condemned the evil crime perpetrated by the Zionist enemy in assassinating Abu Jihad. He affirmed that the crime will remain captive to fear and falsehood, and is a synonym for racism and the madness of occupation and expansion.

Hammadi pointed out that aggressive, racist, expansionist Israel presents new evidence daily of its covetousness and the instinct of killing and destruction which defines racist, fascist Zionism. He noted that the Israelis claim the Arab territory from the Nile to the Euphrates belongs to them. He said that our struggling leader Hafiz al-Asad affirmed that this will not happen and that they will never remain in Palestine.

Hammadi said: We affirmed in this struggling state the facts and essence of the regional conflict. We clearly announced that our conflict with the Zionist enemy is a conflict of existence, not of borders, and that Palestine and its people's rights are a pan-Arab issue. Palestine is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the central conflict of our Arab nation. The basic contradiction is between our Arab nation on one hand and imperialism and Zionism on the other. He noted Israel's ambitions in all Arab territories and its plans to reach any Arab land no matter how far it is from the arena of direct confrontation. Comrade Hammadi affirmed that in light of these clear facts, Syria will proceed on the path of steadfastness and confrontation by developing its defense potentials and reinforcing its strategic capabilities.

Comrade Hammadi noted the unlimited U.S. support for the Zionist enemy and the existing aggressive strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv. He said this alliance has made Washington, in all its moves, governed by Israeli decisions and the supercilious imperialist stand, and that Washington continues its attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause through the Camp David accords, self-rule, and separate treacherous deals as well as through repression, physical liquidation, and terrorism. What Washington proposes are plans for capitulation and for negating the pan-Arab identity. Hammadi added: The militant pan-Arab course is the only option to deal with the enemy. The hand that signs the writ of capitulation with the enemy will be amputated.

Hammadi pointed out that Damascus affirms that the crime which killed martyr Abu Jihad is a new lesson that militant cohesion in confronting the enemy, adherence to armed struggle, and its escalation will topple the Zionist onslaught. He said: Through its pan-Arab course and principled stands, Syria will continue to be a base for the Palestinian revolution. It believes in victory because we own the shining rights and the confident people.

Hammadi continued saying: Today, we bow to martyrdom and express our pride in the tax of blood and in the epics of loftiness written by the blood of children and youth in Palestine. They belong to a nation that abandoned submission and capitulation. From Syria, which adopts a lofty pan-Arab stand, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of the nation and the symbol of our pan-Arab struggle, presented to the herose of the stones uprising on the 25th anniversary of the glorious 8 March revolution the facts by saying: O brothers in the occupied territory do not be deceived by what you hear about peace. Israel is not a peace advocate. Israel seeks Arab capitulation, not peace. It wants to impose its will over the Arabs and over you by aborting your uprising and imposing Arab approval to torpedo your rights and annul your role in the militant and historical Arab map. This will never happen because we are with you, with our history, and with our geography.

Qaddumi Addresses Funeral

JN201913 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, delivered the PLO's speech at Khalil al-Wazir's funeral in Damascus today. He said: O martyr leader who lies in his final abode after keeping the promise, while our occupied territory is burnt with a gigantic popular uprising which has shaken the pillars of the enemy state and thrown it in an ocean of anxiety, confusion, and concern. He said: Today, we are in Damascus, the home of revolutionaries. Its soil embraces your chaste body after years of absence. You are back in Damascus, the lung and the first base of the revolution. The aim is that the brothers will close their ranks and shake hands. This is your desire and we all achieved it. We will never separate, God willing.

Addressing the martyr, Qaddumi said: Today, you will sleep delighted with those who preceded you from your brother martyrs, your comrades who carried the banner of the uprising, the blessed uprising of your people. In your martyrdom, you are urging that the convoys of martyrs will continue on the path of the revolution. Qaddumi then described the martyr's virtues, his courage, and his belief in his people's victory over the coward Zionist aggressors who want to assassinate the Palestinian revolution. You wanted to push the march great steps forward through your martyrdom, Qaddumi said addressing Abu Jihad. Faruq Qaddumi added: Giving your soul has aroused in your nation the hope of unity and cohesion. It has reinforced the torch of struggle and revolution and the insistence on pan-Arab cohesion, bypassing all considerations.

Concluding his speech, Qaddumi addressed the martyr saying: You refused to bargain with loftiness. You never thought of making concessions but you were solid in your stands, clear in your policy, and aware of your revolutionary course. You always said: Palestine—land, people, sea, and sky—is ours, the people of Palestine.

Mrs Intisar al-Wazir, the wife of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, then delivered a speech for the martyr's family in which she said: Your family is not the Al-Wazir family but all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory, the Arab nation in the large Arab homeland, the honorable strugglers, and the free people in the world with whom you communicated and for whom as well as for your revolution you gave throughout 35 years. She added: We made a promise to die for the liberation of Palestine. You kept the promise. Today, before God and the people, on your martyrdom I promise you to continue the march. The banner will not fall as the clubs of the uprising, dignity, and camps; and your new beloved, the heroes of the uprising and the stones, are carrying the banner.

Mrs al-Wazir said the last thing Abu Jihad told her was that armed option is the continuous option that will unite Palestinians. She said: Martyr Abu Jihad never thought of conceding his stands. She then thanked the genuine Arab country, Arab Syria—the president, the government, and people—for burying Abu Jihad in Damascus. Concluding her speech, Mrs al-Wazir condemned the suspect initiatives and greeted the uprising in the occupied territory. She also greeted the steadfast people in the camps of detention, calling for escalating armed struggle until victory and liberation.

Al-Ahmar Receives Tunisian Destourian Official

JN201150 Damascus domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Apr

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received brother Ahmed Karoui, director of the Tunisian Destourian Democratic Rally, who arrived in the country yesterday to participate in the funeral of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the Ba'th Party and the Destourian Democratic Rally. Talks also centered on developments in the Arab arena, especially the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and ways to support it, as well as other issues of common interest to the two fraternal parties and countries.

Commentary Views Israel's 'New Act of Piracy'

JN201435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In a new act of piracy and a criminal operation, and in a new application of the official

terrorist policy followed by its rulers, Israel has assassinated martyr Khalil al-Wazir. The martyr finds his last station on the way to Palestine in Syrian Arab soil. Syria is for Palestine in the same way that Palestine is for Syria. In Syria, every Palestinian who struggles and fights for liberation and self-determination finds refuge, shelter, a base, armor, and strong faith in a common destiny and objectives. All Zionist and imperialist attempts to create a rift between Syria—the leader of Arab steadfastness and the holder of the banners of liberation and adherence to the national rights of Palestinian Arab people—and the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian Arab masses, and all Palestinian strugglers for freedom, right to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state will be fruitless.

As in the past, the situation will remain the same now and in the future. Syria will not compromise the Palestinian Arab people's rights and will not abandon its pan-Arab responsibility toward the Palestine question, which is the central Arab issue. Everyone who works for the national, inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the liberation of the Arab territories occupied by Israel, and who also rejects the Camp David process and all imperialist and Zionist plans that are against the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation, will find himself on the side of Syria and in its heart. No force can separate Syria from Palestinian and Arab strugglers for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the full national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Syria's hand is extended to all true strugglers against Israel and its expansionist plans and aggressive criminal policy, and also against U.S. imperialism which is the savior of Israel and the secret of its existence, power, aggression, and rebellion against the world community. Syria has never had personal quarrels with or reservations regarding certain persons. Syria has always had principled political stands—stands toward trends and policies. When the stands of others are identical or similar to Syria's, then Syria has no personal issues toward anyone. Syria sets no conditions for anyone who wants to be close to it and to cooperate with it except that he should fully and faithfully adhere to the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, work faithfully to liberate the Arab territories occupied by Israel, and refuse to be drawn into processes, policies, and plans that aim to enforce surrender, humiliation, and disgrace on the Arabs and make Arab soil a stage for U.S.-Israeli hegemony and influence.

Just as it was the base for launching the Palestinian revolution and its armed struggle, Damascus will remain the lung of the Palestinian revolution, its source of strength, major supply line, the home of its strugglers, the base for its revolutionaries, and the fortress for the defense of the Palestinian Arab people's rights. If Israel's rulers, and those behind them, imagine that by assassinating one of the Palestinian leaders they can destroy the Palestinian revolution and suppress the tempestuous popular uprising in the occupied territories, then they are proving their short-sightedness, bad judgment, and inability to understand the lessons of history and to comprehend the experiences of struggle between peoples and their occupiers and enslavers. Israel, which has failed in the past 5 months to suppress our people's uprising in the occupied territories, is isolated in the world and is weaker now than at any time in the past. The long-arm demonstration that Israel applied in Tunis will not cancel this fact.

In its final days and while on the road to surrender, Nazi Germany carried out several operations, including kindapping Mussolini from his captives and transporting him to a place of their choice. But these operations did not change the course of events. Israel, which has lost its battle against the Palestinian Arab people and Arab nation practically and historically, will not be able to escape its fate no matter how many crimes and terroristic, outlawed operations it carries out. The people who are waging their freedom struggle through all of their classes, from children to the elderly, are able to produce leaders from their ranks and close all loopholes resulting from the martydom of their leaders and heroes.

Afghanistan

Rebels Capture Town Near Soviet Shindand Base

BK201642 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 20 (AFP)—Rebels have captured a strategically-important town and garrison in Afghanistan's western Farah Province near the Soviet Shindand Air Base, mujahidin sources said here Wednesday. Three resistance groups combined to take the hill town of Khak-e Safid and its garrison on April 4, killing 129 Kabul troops and seizing a large quantity of arms and supplies, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The sources said six militiamen inside the garrison had collaborated in the operation launched by fighters of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, 'Abdul Ghulam Rasul Sayyaf's Etehad-e Eslami and Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani's National Islamic Front.

Some 450 mujahidin, led by Mr. Sayyaf's commander Mehmud Khan, took "complete control" of the garrison and town, which has a population of about 5,000 families, they said. The sources said Khak-e Safid was a base for Kabul troop ambushes against mujahidin forces which had been hampering rebel supplies and was the last Kabul post near the heavily-guarded Shindand Air Base. "Now the road is clear up to Shindand," the sources [said].

The Shindand Air Base, built 30 years ago and located near the Iran border, has been under Soviet control since the beginning of the war in 1979. Equipped with monitoring facilities and manned by a large contingent of Soviet troops and senior Soviet advisers, the base has been used in all major anti-guerrilla operations in the past eight years, analysts said.

Soviet troops have laid a security net on a 20 to 30 kilometer (12 to 18 mile) radius around the base, which has underground storage for ordnance including rockets, missiles and bombs, analysts said. The mujahidin's weapons can only strike up to 12 kilometers (7.2 miles) away, they said.

Khak-e Safid, preceding the taking of Darwazahgey town in Zabol Province three days ago, is the fifth major rebel victory in about five weeks. Bazar-e Panjva'i in Qandahar, Ghorband Valley in Parvan and Sangin town in Helmand have all been captured since mid-March.

Soviets Increase Arms Supply to Jalalabad

BK211138 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 21 (AFP)—About 20 Soviet troops have been killed by a land mine in eastern Afghanistan, resistance sources said Thursday. The mine was planted 200 metres (yards) from a Soviet military post in the Daulat Zay area of Nangarhar Province and exploded when a Soviet Army vehicle ran over it Monday, the sources said.

A former guerrilla commander of the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis) group, Azabullah, was also killed, the sources said. He defected to Kabul in 1985 and was appointed a commander in Nangarhar Province, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has stepped up arms supplies to the pro-Soviet Kabul regime, the sources said. A convoy carrying a large quantity of arms and ammunition has been seen arriving in Jalalabad, Nangarhar's provincial capital, the sources said.

Jalalabad, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of Kabul, is one of the towns near the Pakistan border being heavily resupplied as Soviet troops perpare to pull out from May 15 in accordance with the recently signed Geneva peace accord, they said.

The Afghan mujahidin's seven-party alliance based in the northwestern Pakistani border town of Peshawar has rejected the accord and vowed to continue its "jihad" (holy war) until an Islamic government is set up in Kabul.

Mujahidin Official Rejects Geneva Agreements

PM210957 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Senior Official in Afghan Mujahidin Movement Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Agreement Does Not Concern Us; Our Military Jihad Continues"]

[Excerpt] London—A senior official in the Afghan mujahidin movement has said that the agreement to be signed today between Pakistani and Afghan officials and guaranteed by the Soviet Union and the United States does not concern any of the seven Afghan organizations fighting for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, a national government in deference to the people's wishes, and normalization in the country. Consequently, the military operations will go on relentlessly against the Soviet forces and the forces of the present government in various parts of Afghanistan.

Asking not to be named, the Afghan official stated in a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan, that the negotiations that interest us are the negotiations between the mujahidin and the Afghan Government, and we are not committed to anything to the contrary.

The Afghan official described the Pakistani Government's participation in signing the agreement as a matter that is up to the Pakistani Government, and he added: We, as a movement, embarked on our jihad 9 years ago without relying on a foreign country, and we will continue to do so until our goals are achieved.

He expressed the mujahidin fighters' readiness to leave Pakistan if the Pakistani Government requests them to do so in order to honor its commitments under the agreement which will presumably be signed today. He also said that almost 90 per cent of Afghan territory is under Afghan mujahidin control, and control by the Soviet forces and the Afghan Government forces is restricted to the major cities and the main military garrisons.

He added: Any attempt to stop the mujahidin from being supplied with Western weapons, especially from the United States, will not affect our jihad in the least. And he said: The spoils we have captured from the Soviets cannot be underrated, nor can the conviction and faith of our mujahidin.

The Afghan official confirmed that the mujahidin organizations are in complete agreement on this stand and the provisional government headed by Engineer Ahmad Shah, whose formation was announced previously, will move into Afghanistan to exercise its authority over the regions which come under our control.

The Afghan official did not discount the possibility that the number of Afghan refugees fleeing from the Afghan regime to Pakistan because of the acts perpetrated against them will increase, and he said that the Pakistani Government has no right to force them to leave the country in which they have taken refuge, because that contravenes the UN Charter and the Geneva Convention, which provide for the protection of refugees.

Concerning U.S. welcoming of the agreement he said: "The Americans take care of their interests, and we have no relationship with them. What we do is safeguard the interests of our people." In reply to a question concerning the recognition the mujahidin have requested from the Islamic states, the official said: During the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference in Amman our representative raised the subject of recognition of the government headed by Engineer Ahmad Shah, which was accepted and welcomed by many, except that, in practice, I do not know if we have secured anything tangible in this regard.

He refused to comment on the ammunition dump explosion in Islamabad, saying: "We have nothing to do with the incident. It coincided with the imminent signing of the Geneva agreement." [passage omitted]

Law on State Employees Working Relationship

LD161750 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0630 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, 12 Apr (BAKHTAR)—The Law on State Employees

Chapter I
General Articles

Article 1

1. This law, observing the general basis of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan, regulates and specificies the working relationship between the staff and the state administration. The working relationships in these instances that have not been envisaged are subject to the articles of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan and other relevant legal documents.
2. The working relationship between the judicial and prosecution staffs is regulated by this law, as well as by special legal documents.
3. The specification of the working relationship of a person who is elected or appointed to a specific post in the elected organs of the state is subject to special documents.

Article 2

A state employee is a person who is appointed to the state service on a permanent basis in accordance with the articles of this law.

Article 3

1. State employees are divided into the following five categories and ranks:
   Category A: Outside the rank, over the rank;
   Category B: Rank 1, Rank 2;
   Category C: Rank 3, Rank 4, Rank 5;
   Category D: Rank 6, Rank 7, Rank 8;
   Category E: Rank 9, Rank 10.
2. State employees henceforth are called staff in this law.
3. The elected leading organ of trade union members is called the Council of Representatives in this law.

Article 4

No staff member can be deprived of his status without a legal or court order.

Chapter II
Conditions for Employment

Article 5

1. A person who possesses the following conditions may be employed:
   1) He must be an Afghan citizen
   2) He must have reached the age of 18
   3) He must have obtained a health certificate from the Public Health Ministry authorities
   4) He must have obtained a baccalaureate or its educational equivalent
   5) Male citizens must have served their term in the military service or have legal exemption or a certificate of deferment from service.
2. Concerning the employment of lecturers; teachers; the staff of banking, professional, and vocational institutions and social and cooperative organizations, in addition to conditions included in paragraph 1. of this article, laws and special legal documents are also observed concerning them.
3. Priority in employment in professional fields is given to those who have studied in the field.
4. The age of a person at the time of his employment is to be assessed from his identity card.

Article 6

The rank of a person at the time of his employment is fixed on the basis of his education in the following manner:

1. For those having baccalaureate certificates and the equivalent of Rank 10, any education in addition to a baccalaureate but less than a bachelor's degree—provided the education has been successfully completed—is counted toward the employee's promotion.
2. Those having a bachelor's degree or its equivalent are appointed to Rank 9, with a 1-year advance toward promotion.
3. The period of education at the level of a bachelor's degree or higher, and of education beyond a bachelor's degree which results in a higher diploma is counted toward an employee's advancement in accordance with the terms of his education after the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education has assessed and approved the diplomas.

Article 7

The employment of a person where a vacancy does not exist is not allowed.

Chapter III
Staff Employment

Article 8

The employment of staff is to be carried out by the following authorities.

1. The staff in Category A by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan and by approval of the president.
2. Staff in Category B by the proposal of ministers, provincial governors, and a person outside rank, and to be approved by the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, or directly by the prime minister.
3. Staff in Category C by the approval of ministers, provincial governors, and their equavalent, and a person outside rank.
4. Staff in Categories D and E by the approval of ministers, provincial governors, and their equivalent, and persons outside the rank, and in those departments connected to the Council of Ministers by the head of department.

Article 9

1. A department can appoint a member of staff, four grades above his rank in the capital and six grades in the provinces according to his abilities. A staff member who has obtained one grade promotion may be appointed to any rank higher than his own according to his ability.
2. A member of staff cannot be employed in a post where his personal report writer is a relative. The relatives of staff in this regard are: father, mother, son, daughter, wife, husband, sister, and brother.

Chapter IV
Rights of the Staff

Article 10

Staff have the following rights:

1. Salary along with supplements and other payments on the basis of legal documents
2. Leave
3. Promotion
4. The right to social security, particularly retirement rights
5. Other rights registered in legal documents

Article 11

1. The amount and conditions of payments to staff are regulated according to the order of section 91, paragraph 1, Article 76 of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan.
2. Staff cannot work during official time in two places

and obtain salary, except teaching fees authorized by an authority and also under other conditions envisaged in legal documents.

3. Staff are entitled to receive a salary from the date of employment.

Article 12

Staff who observe order and discipline in work and display worthiness in the discharge of their duties will be rewarded with cash awards and commendation certificates for services rendered.

Article 13

Material priviliges emanating from educational documents are a part of the staff salary and their amount is fixed by the Council of Ministers.

Article 14

1. Staff under the following conditions are rewarded with cash awards:
   1) Interest in work and punctuality
   2) The accomplishment of work in time
   3) Politeness with customers and colleagues
   4) Maintaining healthy and positive savings
2. Cash awards equivalent to 1 month's salary are awarded at the proposal of the head of the department and with the agreement of the Council of Representatives and the approval of the minister or awarding authority, or are awarded directly by the aforementioned authorities.

Article 15

1. After fulfilling the following conditions personnel can be commended:
   1) Fulfilling the condition embodied in Paragraph 1, Article 14 of this law
   2) Working over and above the plan and completing duties before the specified time and in a superior manner
2. A commendation certificate which carries 2 months salary, and its supplements will be presented at the proposal of the relevant supervisor, the approval of the delegates council, and the endorsement of a minister or the senior official in a department, or directly by the above authorities.

Article 16

1. In view of its importance and quality, a commendation certificate has been classified according to the following three grades:
   1) Third grade commendation certificate
   2) Second grade commendation certificate
   3) First grade commendation certificate
2. After fulfilling the following conditions personnel will be eligible for a third grade commendation certificate:
   1) Fulfilling the conditions embodied in paragraph 1, Article 15 of this law
   2) Exercising initiative and innovation at work
   3) Carrying out positive work for the department outside the main duties
3. The third grade commendation certificate, which carries a 1-year promotion, will be awarded at the proposal of the relevant supervisor, the approval of the delegates council, and endorsement of the minister or the senior head of department, or will be awarded directly by the above authorities. The third grade commendation certificate, if awarded to a person at a level above the top rank, will include 2 months salary with its supplements.

Article 17

1. After fulfilling the following conditions a person will be eligible for a second grade commendation certificate:
   1) Completing the conditions embodied in paragraph 2, Article 16 of this law
   2) Presenting drafts and constructive proposals which have positive results.
2. The second grade commendation certificate, which carries a 2-year promotion, will be awarded by the prime minister on the proposal of minister or the senior head of department, with the approval of the delegates council and the endorsement of the prime minister. If awarded to a person at a level above the top rank, the second grade commendation certificate will include 3 months salary with its supplements.

Article 18

1. After fulfilling the following conditions a person will be eligible for a first grade commendation certificate:
   1) Fulfilling the conditions embodied in paragraph 1, Article 17 of this law
   2) Showing organizational ability, coordination, and harmony at work
   3) By careful and effective implementation of government policy in the area of work
2. The first grade commendation certificate includes a one-rank promotion that can be awarded by the president upon the recommendation of a minister or the senior head of department, the approval of the delegates council, and the endorsement of prime

minister, or can be awarded directly by the president. First grade commendation certificates to persons at a level above the top grade means 4 months salary with its supplements.

Article 19

1. The commendation certificates embodied in this law can be presented to personnel who have accomplished outstanding or extraordinary services in consideration of the importance of the service, irrespective of the conditions embodied in Articles 16-18 of this law, upon the recommendation of the relevant supervisor, the approval of the delegates council, and the endorsement of the relevant authorities, or directly by the competent authorities.
2. The presentation of the commendation certificates embodied in this law, after fulfillment of the specified conditions, shall not bar the award of other types of incentives envisaged in this law.

Article 20

Staff leave is subject to the articles of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 21

1. Promotion to a rank means raising a staff member from the existing rank to a higher rank.
2. Staff can be promoted by one grade over the rank. Promotion to outside the rank is not permitted.

Article 22

Staff can be promoted under the following conditions:
1) Completing 3 years in service
2) Suitability of the ability assessment form
3) The term of service to above the rank is 6 years

Article 23

1. A staff member who works as member of the elected organs of the state or in other tasks entrusted to him outside the rank shall have that the term of service in such positions credited to him.
2. A staff member who, by the authority of the state, is sent to international institutions, parties, and social organizations, to companies and private and mixed firms, shall have the term of occupation of the position credited to his term in service.

Article 24

The date for staff promotion is 27 April each year. A staff member who becomes entitled to a promotion on 27 April, but is not been promoted on that date due to administrative problems will be promoted after the elimination of these problems. The promotion can be implemented at any time of the year, valid from the date of entitlement.

Article 25

A member staff who does not complete a step toward promotion because of the difference between 27 April and the date of his first appointment, then the period in question will be assessed on the following basis:
1. If this period is between 1 day and 6 months, this cannot prevent the promotion of the staff member.
2. If this period is greater than 6 months, then the promotion cannot take place.

Article 26

Promotion commissions for the purpose of determining promotions are appointed in the capital by the minister, and in the provinces by the governor or his equivalent or the general president connected to the Council of Ministers.

Article 27

1. The relevant departments are dutybound, 2 months prior to the date of a promotion, to send promotion recommendation forms for the staff member to the immediate supervisor.
2. The next-in-line supervisor has the same responsibility in assessing the aforementioned forms.
3. The immediate supervisor of the staff member must responsibly assess the staff member on the form and send the form to the next-in-line supervisor within 10 days.
4. The suitability of staff in category A—if the staff member has only one supervisor in the administrative heirarchy—will be assessed by that supervisor.
5. After ensuring the health of the staff member, the relevant department should [words indistinct] with other documents influencing the promotion to the promotion commission.

Article 28

If the promotion and retirement of a staff member coincide, the staff member retires with a promotion.

Article 29

Approval of the promotion of a staff member is the responsibility of the authorities listed in Article VIII of this law.

Article 30

1. The right to social security, in particular the retirement right of staff, are subject to the articles of the Labor Code of the Republic of Afghanistan.
2. Approval of retirement of staff and its [words indistinct] take place in accordance with article VIII of this law.

Chapter V
Staff Obligations

Article 31

1. Staff members, as servants of the people, are dutybound to accomplish their tasks within the limits of the law, with complete neutrality, and in consideration of the public interest.
2. Staff members are responsible for the duties and authorities which have been entrusted to them by law.
3. Staff members are dutybound to observe the heirarchy, order, and discipline of the department.

Article 32

1. Staff members are dutybound to obey the orders of their supervisor in accomplishing their duties.
2. If a staff member deems an order to be contrary to law or regulations, he is dutybound to inform the supervisor in writing in this regard. If after being informed, the supervisor orders the execution of his order in writing, the staff member does not bear responsibility for the consequences. These will be attributed to the supervisor.

Article 33

Staff are dutybound to refrain from any kind of action which causes delays in the affairs of the department.

Article 34

Staff are dutybound to safeguard the secrets of their job and not to reveal them unless legally necessary.

Article 35

1. Staff cannot engage in private affairs in official time without the utilization of leave.
2. The attendence of staff is controlled by the relevant supervisor and the relevant department is dutybound to look after the preparation of the attendance book.

Article 36

Staff cannot tender for work, which they are not responsible for.

Article 37

Staff cannot utilize official authority for the purpose of private affairs.

Chapter VI
Conditions for Staff Transfers

Article 38

Staff, except under the following circumstances, cannot be transfered before 3 years:

1) The need for professional expertise and the ability of staff to improve affairs
2) Nonsuitability of a staff's performance after assessments in one term for promotion
3) Agreement between two departments and the approval of authorities included in Article IX of this law
4) The vital necessity of the staff that could satisfy his department

Article 39

Staff must continue existing duties until the finalization of transfer papers.

Article 40

The transfer of staff is approved, according to conditions approved by the authority regarding employment as registered in Article 8 of this law.

Article 41

1. The transfer of school teachers and Koran recitation teachers is in the authority of the minister of education without consideration of the articles included in Article 40 of this law, and in provinces is in the authority of the governors or their equivalent.
2. The transfer of university lecturers and of higher technical and vocational education lecturers in the capital and provinces is the authority of the relevant ministers without consideration of Article 40 of this law.
3. The transfer of teachers included in paragraph 1 of this article to duties outside educational establishments of the relevant provinces cannot take place without the permission of the minister of education and training.

Chapter VII
Status of Staff

Article 42

During the execution of their duties staff will be listed in the following categories:

1) Original status
2) Serving status
3) Military service status
4) Studying status
5) Temporary separation status

Article 43

Original status is a situation in which a staff member discharges his duty in a particular post to which he is appointed.

Article 44

Serving status is a situation in which a staff member, upon the decision of the department, is commissioned to discharge a temporary official duty. The period of such a service cannot be more than 6 months.

Article 45

1. The status of military service is a situation in which a staff member, in accordance with the provision of the law, serves conscription or reserve service in the armed forces.
2. Staff, from the date of starting military service, will be detached from duty.
3. When in military service status, a staff member will not be entitled to salary or supplements from his department, but his family can use staff health clinics, cooperatives, coupons, and other assistance and social security. The salary of staff in the reserve service will be paid by the respective unit in accordance with specified norms.
4. The period of service of a staff member and of secondary graduates from general or vocational schools, universities, and other higher educational and training institutions who directly join the military service, will be counted in the term of their service.
5. A staff member benefits from rights and privileges embodied in paragraph 3 of this article when he joins the military service apart from resigning, abandoning duty, suspension, and waiting without salary.
6. A staff member must contact the military commissariat within 1 month of the date of being introduced, otherwise he will assume the status of waiting without salary.
7. If a staff member does not enter into military service in accordance with the provision of law, he must report for duty within 1 month after receiving deferment or his exemption document, otherwise he will assume the status of waiting without salary from the date of being introduced.

Article 46

1. The status of studying is assessed as being a staff member being engaged in scholarship or fellowship study inside or outside the country with the consent of the department.
2. The period of successful study of the staff member will be counted with the period of service as noted in documents confirmed by the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education.

Article 47

The period spent by staff taking courses within the service inside the country, or broadening knowledge or studying a language outside the country will be counted with the period of service on the production of pass certificates.

Article 48

Staff in the studying status will be entitled to salary, supplements, and other privileges in accordance with legislative documents.

Article 49

Under the following circumstances staff take the status of temporary detachment from duty:

1) When suspended
2) When resigning or abandoning duty
3) When taking part in outside official elected duties and in international institutions
4) When in a waiting situation

Article 50

1. Suspension is temporary separation of staff from duty.
2. If in prison, a member of staff will be suspended.

Article 51

1. Utilization of staff's rights will be halted during a period of suspension.
2. If as a result of an investigation the decision not to prosecute a member of staff is rendered, or he is regarded as not deserving disciplinary punishment, or if as a result of a trial a staff member is acquitted, he will be entitled to benefit from salary and all the rights of the period of suspension, including the period of investigation and trial.

Article 52

1. A staff member who has a minimum of 10 years seniority of work can resign from his job.
2. Applications for resignation will be submitted to the competent authority of the respective department.
3. Acceptance of the resignation of a staff member or his withdrawal under certain circumstances is made within the competence of the authorities as embodied in Article 8 of this law.
4. A staff member can change his decision to resign within 15 days.
5. The department shall make a decision about the case within 15 days after the end of the period embodied in paragraph 4 of this article, and convey it to the staff member, otherwise the resignation will be regarded as accepted.

Article 53

1. The applicant is dutybound to continue his duty from the date of submission of his resignation until the date of the issue of a decision or for 30 days.
2. The department will finalize the financial accounts of the resigned staff member within 2 months after the acceptance of resignation.
3. In the event, embodied in paragraph 2 of this article, the resigned staff will be entitled to a sum equivalent to 1 month's salary of his original rank.
4. If a staff member, prior to the specified period for acceptance of his resignation, abandons his duty without reasonable excuse, he will be bound to pay back 1 months' salary to the department.

Article 54

1. A resigned staff member can be reemployed while maintaining his previous rank, or he can demand his retirement.
2. If the resigned staff member resumes work the period of resignation will not be counted in his term of office.
3. The resigned staff member, if demanding retirment, will be entitled to a pension from the date of the submission of his application.

Article 55

1. Staff resignation during a state of emergency is not permitted.
2. Collective resignation of staff is not permitted.

Article 56

1. If a staff member is absent from duty continuously for 20 days and cannot present a reasonable excuse which satisfies the department, he shall be regarded as a deserter from duty.
2. The provision embodied in paragraph 1 of this article shall be applied also to staff who do not take a position in a new job after a written memo to this effect, and to staff whose vacation is ended.
3. Staff who desert shall be regarded as having resigned and the consequences of the resignation shall be applied to him.
4. Staff mentioned in paragraph 3 of this article can be reemployed with 1 year demotion in rank.

Article 57

Waiting status is a situation when a staff is not actually discharging a duty, with or without salary, he is waiting for appointment to a duty.

Article 58

Under the following circumstances staff shall remain in the status of waiting with salary:

1) When the position of a staff member is being abolished
2) When a staff member reports to the department within a month after completing military service
3) After the end of duty as member in an elected organ of the state or discharging duties in a position at the rank above the first grade
4) When posted by the department to study inside or outside the country and after the end of study reports, within a month, to the respective department or state committee for labor and social security
5) When he reports to the relevant department after the end of duty in one of the institutions embodied in paragraph 2 of Article 23 of this law
6) When his substitute is being appointed [as received]
7) When the period of his suspension and trial is ended in consideration of paragraph 2, Article 51 of this law
8) When he reports to the relevant department within 15 days after return from performance of the hajj

Article 59

1. A staff member with salary is entitled to the salary of the original rank with concessions for regional work, for a maximum period of 6 months.
2. A waiting staff member with salary will enjoy the other rights of staff and is dutybound to carry out the instructions of the department.

Article 60

1. The department is bound to make use of a staff in waiting with salary, in accordance with the field of his study and his experience until the time of his reappointment and pay him supplementary wages applying to the actual work.
2. During the time it has at its disposal a staff member in waiting with salary, the department cannot employ a new staff member with the same standard and conditions of employment.
3. The department is dutybound to prepare the ground for the reappointment of staff in waiting with salary within a period of 3 months.
4. In the event of nonavailability of a job in the relevant department for a staff member in view of his past education and experience within a period of 3 months, the relevant department must report the matter in writing to the State Committee for Labor and Social Security.
5. The State Committee for Labor and Social Security shall prepare the ground for the reappointment of a staff member referred to them in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of this article.

Article 61

Under the following circumstances a staff member shall be regarded as a staff member in waiting without salary:

1) When he does not report to the relevant department within the specified periods embodied in this law for reappointment
2) When 1 year has elapsed from the date of resignation or abandoning of duty by a staff member
3) When he reports to the relevant department over a month after vacation without salary
4) When a dismissed staff member is being pardoned and reinstated in accordance with the provision of law
5) When the transfer of a staff member is subjected to her Moharam-e Shara'i [close relation such as husband to wife, brother to sister or father to daughter] and in the place of transfer there is no vacancy for the Moharam-e Shara'i.

The period of waiting without salary, with the exception of a situation embodied in subparagraph 5, paragraph 1 of this article, shall not be counted as part of the term of office of a staff member.

Article 62

The relevant department is bound to report formally to the State Committee for Labor and Social Security as soon as a staff member is put in the status of waiting without salary.

Article 63

Temporary separation of a staff member shall be instituted by an authority which had approved his appointment in a manner envisaged in Article 8 of this law.

Article 64

A staff member who is being put in a status of waiting without salary, can ask for his right to retirement from the date of application in accordance with the provision of Article 164 of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Chapter VIII
Instances of Reprimand

Article 65

The punishments mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Article 97 of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan, in consideration of Articles 100-104 of the above law, shall be applicable to all staff.

Article 66

Staff in the following circumstances shall be chastized with advice the first time, with a warning the second time, and with detraction of up to 5 days salary the third time:

1) Impolite behavior to visitors
2) Carelessness in the accomplishment of lawful instructions and duties allotted
3) Violation of the provisions of interdepartmental regulations and charters
4) Hesitation or delay in the accomplishment of duties and lawful instructions
5) Carelessness in maintenance and cleanliness of office and means of work
6) Nonobservance of discipline
7) Using excuses in order to discard duty

2. Advice and warning respectively are within the authority of the first and second grade managers who assess eligibility for promotion and detraction of salary and is within the authority of a minister or the top manager of a department.

Chapter IX
Miscellaneous Provisions

Article 67

1. The rank of employees of government, private, and mixed companies who are new government employees, shall be determined in the following manner in consideration of their educational background:
   1) Those years where the salary of an employee of government, mixed, and private companies in each rank is equivalent to the annual salary of a government employee of the same rank shall be

counted as the term of office of an employee in the government, private and mixed companies.

2) In those years where the salary of an employee in government, mixed and private company at the same rank is more than the salary of a government employee, the rank of an employee in the government, mixed, and private company shall be balanced using the following formula: the annual rank salary of a government employee divided by the annual rank salary of an employee in the government, mixed, and private company, multiplied by the number of years of service shall be equal to the service that shall be credited to the government department employee.

2. The rank which has been determined in accordance with the provisions of this law is valid after the approval of the competent authority.

Article 68

The share of pension for the period credited shall be formulated in Article 168 of the Labor Law of the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with an envisaged legislative document.

Article 69

1. A retired officer from the rank of the Armed Forces who is qualified for employment may be employed in a government department as a nonmilitary employee provided he has not reached the age for obligatory retirement or he has not been deprived by a court from the right of becoming an employee.
2. A retired officer who is employed shall have his right to a pension from the army terminated and his military term of service shall be counted as time in office and his rank shall be determined.
3. If a retired officer received his pension as a lump sum and cut his ties with the army, his rank as an employee shall be determined in view of his educational background.

Article 70

The printed career records sheets for government employees and the special primary record form—supplement to this law—shall be used for a new employee.

Article 71

Promotion, retirement, and regulating salaries for staff in the banking institutions shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislative document.

Article 72

This law, in 9 chapters and 72 articles and two supplementary forms, has been approved and shall be presented to the president for signature in accordance with the provision of Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

This law, after being signed by the president, shall be enforced and will be published in the Official Gazette.

After the enforcement of this law, the Civil Servants Law issued 1977-78 with its supplements, Decree No 84, dated 14 April 1980 by the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council on the restitution of individuals rights and other legislative documents which are repugnant to this law shall be regarded as null.

Bangladesh

Police Open Fire on Squatters, Wound 26

BK200859 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 20 (AFP)—At least 26 people were injured in northern Bangladesh when police opened fire on squatters to evict them from government land, press reports said Wednesday. The clash took place Tuesday at Mahiganj in Rangpur District, about 250 kilometres (155 miles) from here, as the squatters reportedly defied a magistrate's order to vacate the land, THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER said.

Police forces accompanying the magistrate opened fire and used batons when they were allegedly pelted with stones by the squatters, the newspaper said. The injured included a woman with bullet wounds and 25 others, the reports said, without giving further details. Officials at Mahiganj could not be contacted immediately for more details.

President Ershad To Visit Burma 26 Apr

BK191258 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Bangladesh President H.M. Ershad will go to Rangoon on the 26th of this month on a 3-day state visit to Burma. An official announcement in Dhaka today said the visit will take place at the invitation of the Burmese president, U San Yu. The president will be accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. Bangladesh and Burma are two friendly neighbors and exchange of high-level visits between the two countries from time to time has been a particular feature of the relations of goodwill, understanding, and cooperation existing between them.

India

Gandhi on Relations With Neighbors, Superpowers

BK201631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] President Najibullah of Afghanistan has been invited to visit New Delhi to discuss the situation following the signing of the Geneva accord. This was announced by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in the Lok Sabha today. He was replying to the debate on the demands for grants of the External Affairs Ministry which the House later passed. Welcoming the Geneva accord, Mr Gandhi said India would like to see a strong government in Kabul. The accord should help in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and the return of the refugees. The prime minister said India played its part constructively and quietly, but regretted that Pakistan did not respond to our invitation to send a team to New Delhi for consultation on the Afghan issue.

Mr Gandhi accused Pakistan of adopting a hostile posture in the Siachen area and allowing its territory to be used for support-sustenance and as a sanctuary for terrorists and separatists. While India welcomes exchanges at people's level in various fields, the policies of the Pakistan Government are aimed at forestalling them. He said India has always entertained warm sentiments for the people of Pakistan in view of the common history, language, and culture. To normalize relations, India has suggested several confidence-building and risk-reducing measures, but unfortunately we are stuck with a very unsatisfactory response from Pakistan. Mr Gandhi declared we want to see a prosperous and strong Pakistan. This is in India's own national interest.

About China, Mr Gandhi said we are looking forward to a new and productive phase in our relationship. He said both countries are keen on a peaceful solution to the border question, keeping in mind their national sentiments. Mr Gandhi announced that he has accepted in principle the invitation to visit China.

Referring to the India-Sri Lanka agreement, the prime minister said it has been universally welcomed. In the last 9 months the peacekeeping force has succeeded in stopping conflicts between Tamil groups and Tamil militants and the Sri Lankan Army. Large sections of the LTTE have also been disarmed.

Turning to the Gulf war, the prime minister deplored the intensification of the great power naval presence and urged utmost restraint. He underlined the need for a negotiated settlement of the conflict. On West Asia, Mr Gandhi condemned the brutal behavior of the Israeli forces in the occupied territories. He said assassination of Abu Jihad will only escalate tension in the region and make the path to peace more difficult.

Referring to India-Soviet relations, Mr Gandhi said these are expanding at an unprecedented pace. There has been a new thrust in trade and economic cooperation and especially in science and technology. Mr Gandhi said India is looking forward to Mr Gorbachev's visit in November.

About our relations with the United States, he said there have been useful consultations in international and regional issues. On India-U.S. cooperation in defense, Mr Gandhi said the focus is on high technology for self-reliance.

Mr Gandhi referred to his visits to Japan and Vietnam and said these have helped in strengthening relations between the two countries. He described Vietnam as a true and sincere friend of India. The prime minister said India and Vietnam have shared values, principles, and geopolitical perceptions. He said his latest visit has resulted in arriving at a strong understanding with Vietnam which was necessary to safeguard peace and stability in Asia. Mr Gandhi expressed the hopes that talks between Prince Sihanouk and the Kampuchean leadership will be resumed soon and ASEAN countries will play their due role.

Emphasizing the need for total disarmament and eliminating nuclear weapons within a timeframe, Mr Gandhi said we will have to work to see that nuclear weapons program does not extend into new dimensions. The doctrine of deterrence should be replaced by the doctrine of peaceful coexistence. He said although the INF treaty is a historic step, a lot more needs to be done before its objectives are achieved. The prime minister underlined the necessity for a world order based on the values of Nehru and Gandhi.

About the Nonaligned Movement, Mr Gandhi said it is the only path to peace and prosperity in the world. It has grown from a small minority into an overwhelming majority. The prime minister said that new attitudes are developing, new ways of thinking are springing up, and all this would pose new challenges, especially to countries like India playing a significant role in international relations. He said India's foreign policy was regarded by some as immoral and impractical, but now the world is accepting the indispensability of nonviolence and freedom from nuclear weapons. The prime minister concluded his speech with the solemn assurance that his government would work for peace and amity in the neighborhood and for human rights and justice for all.

Gandhi Visit to China Possible This Year

BK191343 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, April 12—CPI leaders who visited China last week were told by the Chinese leaders that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi might visit that country by the end of the year. The CPI's five-member delegation,

headed by general secretary C. Rajeswara Rao, returned here last night after its two-week visit to China at the invitation of the CPC central committee.

According to the delegation sources, the new general secretary of the CPC, Mr Zhao Ziyang, in the course of his two-hour talks with the CPI delegation, gave enough indication that while China was anxious to normalise its relations with India and take concrete steps, the Indian side was not reciprocating to the desired extent.

The CPI leaders noted that during the talks on the complexities of the border dispute, the CPC general secretary was always underlining the need to hold talks at the political level for speeding up the process of normalisation. The Chinese side gave the impression that earlier Mr Gandhi's visit was expected in the middle of 1988 and now it would be possible only in the last quarter of 1988.

Natwar Singh, UK Minister Discuss 'Extremists'

BK210444 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] India has asked Britain to take stringent action against extremists who are carrying on an anti-India campaign from the British soil. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, conveyed the government's feelings to the British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord Glenarthur, at their meeting in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Natwar Singh told Lord Glenarthur that Britain could take preventive steps against the extremists as is being done by the Canadian Government. Mr Natwar Singh also voiced India's concern at the increasing involvement of Pakistan and its active assistance to terrorists in Punjab. Mr Natwar Singh pointed out that despite a series of initiatives taken by India to improve relations with that country, Islamabad had not responded positively. The two leaders also discussed the latest situation in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and the Gulf.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi yesterday, Lord Glenarthur expressed his government's determination to check extremist activities from his country. He said all those identified in Britain as being involved in acts of violence connected with the Punjab have either been convicted or are awaiting trial. The British minister said that steps are being taken to stop the flow of funds from Britain to extremists in India. Lord Glenarthur declined to comment when asked about Britain's views on Pakistan's support to terrorists in Punjab. However, he said Britain condemns terrorism from whichever direction it comes.

Natwar Singh Comments on Foreign Policy

BK191606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has asserted that India's foreign policy has stood the test of time and helped ease tensions in various parts of the world. Intervening in the discussion on the budgetary demands of his ministry in the Lok Sabha today, he pointed out that there is a national consensus on the external policy of the country, which is very principled and not opportunistic. Earlier during the discussion, members said that the climate of mutual confidence is necessary to solve the boundary problems with China.

Pant Says No Irregularities Found in Sub Deal

BK210914 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, told the Lok Sabha today that the allegations of payment of commission to Indian agents in the purchase of submarines from HDW [Howardtswerke-Deutsche Werft] of Federal Republic of Germany have no basis. In a statement, he said after thorough and detailed inquiries made by the investigating agencies of the government, it has been found that there is no evidence of any FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulations Act] violations in the deal.

No income tax laws have been violated. There is nothing to indicate that HDW had an Indian agent for the December 1981 contract for the supply of submarines. In respect of offer received from HDW as well as the negotiations with the firm, no Indian agent or representative was at any time working on behalf of the firm. There is also no evidence to link Hindujas [Indian company] with the HDW contract. Various inquiries into the HDW deals were ordered by the then defense minister in April last year. Mr Pant informed the house that an inquiry ordered by the then defense minister on the modus operandi of Indian and foreign agents in defense deals by the director general, Economic Intelligence Bureau, has been completed. The defense minister said that government made all efforts to inquire into the allegations in regard to the HDW deal and all possible leads were followed up. The allegations have been found to have no basis, and, accordingly, government has decided to treat the matter as closed. [passage omitted]

Gill Replaces Ribeiro as Punjab Police Chief

BK201254 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Mr K.P.S. Gill has been appointed the new director general of Punjab Police in place of Mr J.F. Ribeiro. Mr Gill was holding the post of additional director general of Punjab Police. Mr Ribeiro has been appointed adviser to the state governor. [passage omitted]

Task Force To Monitor Drug-Terrorism Connection

BK200404 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The inspector general, Border Security Force [BSF], Punjab frontier, Mr Prakash Singh, has said a task force comprising the BSF, Punjab police and other

agencies has been set up to monitor the growing nexus between drug peddling, smuggling, and terrorism. He told our correspondent, Vishwanath Ramashesh, in New Delhi that substantial evidence has been found regarding Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Punjab. There have been five intrusions from Pakistani territory in Sundergarh, (Burj), Dhyansinghpura, Gajjal, and Shahpur. The Border Security Force gave a fitting reply to these intruders. This resulted in the large discovery of arms and ammunition. The inspector-general said some of these intrusions took place in areas close to Pakistani border outposts. There is concrete evidence to suggest that Pakistani Rangers not only guided the infiltrators but also provided air and fire cover to them. On Pakistan's role in training terrorists, he said Islamabad has set up training camps at Lahore, Harbanspur, (Kotlakbad), and Narowal.

Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed this morning in an encounter with the security forces in the Ramuwala village under Mehana police station of Faridkot District. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them. Security forces recovered 16 rocket launchers in a raid conducted on a farm house in a village under Kalanau police station of Gurdaspur District last night. The state government has announced a new package of concessions to families who migrated from terrorist stricken rural areas to other safer places within the state.

Soviet-Acquired Helicopters Sent to Siachen

BK200955 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 88 pp 10

[Text] On the Siachen Glacier, April 14 (PTI)—India is augmenting its fleet of heavy lift Soviet-acquired MI-26 and MI-17 helicopters for rapid development and switchover of forces in this, Asia's largest glacial belt, where guns have not stilled for the past seven years.

The first group of journalists, who flew into the 72 kms long glacier nestling under the Saltoro Ridge, in eastern Karakoram, India's northern-most boundary, were told that more of these strategic heli-lift helicopters were being acquired. One helicopter can ferry 30 battle-ready troops at a time.

Both the giant MI-26, which is the biggest helicopter in the world, and the MI-17 are doing tremendous work in the battle raging on the Saltoro Ridge and are the lifeline to the valiant men battling the vagaries of nature in India's "Arctic zone".

Day in and day out, the helicopters battling jet speed mountain air currents, fly hundreds of sorties to reach, food, machine, shelters, ammunition to the troops besides acting as "angels of mercy" airlifting casualties. No air force anywhere in the world has to battle such odds, said Air Marshal M. M. Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Air Command, proudly of his men. These helicopters have given the Indian army the cutting edge in the battle in this glacial belt.

They have dared to cross all flight ceilings labelled by the manufacturers and at times ferry men and material much above their certified height limit of 6,000 metres. They have airlifted heavy artillery guns, six tonne vehicles, fibre glass defence and shelters, to give some semblence of life in otherwise bleak snowy surroundings.

As one of the MI-17's ferrying the party of newsmen accompanying Defence Minister K. C. Pant on his first visit to the glacier rounded the snout of the glacier into the magic world of snowy whiteness, figures in olive green emerged out of snowy wilderness to wave frantically upwards.

The young navigator of the helicopter quipped sadly, "my comrades in arms down there are going to be a disappointed lot today". He said the very sight of these helicopters, the lighter "Cheetah" and the fixed wing AN-32's brought cheer to these valiant jawans [soldiers] as they were carriers of food, medicines and above all a "word from home" for these fighting men.

These heli-pilots have become a lifeline to the large number of soldiers who for most of the year remain cut off from the outside world, while keeping vigil on these snowy heights. On the ground below, the main pickets strung all along the Saltoro Ridge and down towards Chorbat La Pass have been reinforced by providing them with fibre glass defence and shelters. Though initially they were imported, they have now been started being made indigenously.

But despite their constant inflow from the plains, there is some shortage. This could be gauged as the Defence Minister in his chat with the jawans was constantly asked for provision of these. [sentence as published]. The Minister assured that the Government was well aware of this and taking urgent steps to see that there has no shortage.

The troops battling in the arid snowy wilderness have been provided the most sophisticated wherewithal. They have the ultra modern snow mobiles and snow scooters, the fibre glass skis and the most modern mountaineering equipment, including the down sleeping bags, jumpers, carabiners, climbing boots and reindeer boots.

As the weather plays more havoc with the battle troops than the exchange of firing which is a daily occurrence here, the army to overcome this, keeps shuttling the troops manning these posts every six months. The formations being inducted are first given a crash drilling course in ski-warfare at the army high altitude school, Gulmarg, and then made to move in to man the pickets ranging in heights from 4,500 metres to almost 6,500 metres gradually. They start the long trek up, right from Leh, cross the Khardung La Pass through a fair weather road and then walk up for three weeks to these posts with their armaments.

Unlike other areas, the long range and short range patrols in the area are always conducted in strength. For load ferrying some of the inaccessible areas which have giant crevasses have been bridged with snow bridges, and fixed ropes strung on sheer ice balls leading to some of the observation posts.

The patrols jump up the fixed ropes which are checked every week and on their way down they just ski down or use the snow scooters and snow mobiles. The officers told PTI that the winter months were real hell with the mercury plunging to minus 50 degrees and the jet speed winds ranging with a velocity of more than 120 kms.

But, undeterred, the morale of both the men and the officers was very high. The moment you walk into any of the icy pickets, "the vistors, an unheard of commodity here, are welcomed with warm hugs and hot mugfuls of tea." Most of the army field commanders acknowledged that there had been a build up by Pakistani forces all along the glacier area. They estimated that the enemy had two brigades strength in the are. But they said "we can handle them anytime".

INDIAN EXPRESS on Carlucci's Visit

BK200949 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Apr 88 p 8

[Editorial: "The Fixation"]

[Text] The US Defence Secretary, Mr Frank Carlucci, was admirably blunt in his statement in New Delhi on his country's relations with Pakistan. Despite being fully aware of New Delhi's understandably grave view of the massive infusion of the latest military hardware into Pakistan, he firmly stressed the "long-standing and durable security relationship" between that country and the US. This should provide food for thought to those who have fondly hoped that with the imminent withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Washington will give due weight to India's legitimate security interests which have for so long been jeopardised by the American pampering of Pakistan as its client.

It will thus be rash for anyone in South Block [External Affairs Ministry] to conjure up a vision of a cosy Indo-U.S. relationship in the wake of an Afghan settlement. Nor should Indian policy-makers expect a diminishing emphasis on US military aid to Pakistan just because economic difficulties have induced the American Congress to slash the Pentagon's programmes. Mr Carlucci's remarks show that military largesse for Pakistan continues to be regarded as a constant, rather than a variable, in the US administration's military donations. After all, the $4.02 billion package which Islamabad has just started receiving is peanuts in terms of the American economy even if it is a source of serious tension in this subcontinent.

Nor will the US administration's reluctance to undertake a review of its security policy in this region cheer those in Pakistan keen on domestic political reform. Many in Pakistan feel that so long as General Ziaul Haq is assured of continued military aid from the US, he will resist paving the way for genuine democracy. The Afghan conflict made it easier for him to keep the movement for the restoration of democracy in check. Apparently, Washington could not care less if its patronage sustains military rule and delays the advent of democracy in Pakistan. Mr Carlucci reiterated the familiar euphemism—that the US would work "to promote political stability" in Pakistan. A vast change has come over the relations between the US and its chief adversary, the Soviet Union. But this has made no difference to a basic postulate of the American foreign policy which has done such harm to democracy around the world.

Iran

Envoy to UN Interviewed on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD201554 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Report on interview with Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, representative of the Islamic Republic to the United Nations, in New York by unidentified correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to the UN in a press, radio, and television interview described the dimensions of the recent aggressions carried out by the United States in the Persian Gulf, notably the aggression carried out 2 days ago and its international consequences. In this interview, which was given at the UN, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati stated: The latest U.S. aggression is one against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an explicit violation of the UN Charter, and particularly a vioation of the principle prohibiting the unlawful use of force, which should be condemned by the UN Organization.

Referring to the numerous occasions of tension resulting from the military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf, he said: One example of the expanded U.S. military presence is the stepped-up attacks against merchant ships and in civilian loss of life, a two-fold increase over previous years.

He added: How can a government, which has been ruled by the International Court at The Hague as the guilty party for planting mines on the coast of Nicaragua and has been condemned at an international level, justify in the United Nations and in the face of world and international public opinion its cowardly attacks against nonmilitary oil platforms and the killing of the nonmilitary persons stationed in these installations under the pretext that the Islamic Republic of Iran had planted mines in the Gulf.

Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati then added: Everyone knows that Iraq does not have great interests in the Persian Gulf and therefore it had a motive for planting mines in that region and has consistently taken steps toward this end. The fact that the United States embarked on its aggression against the oil platforms of the Islamic Republic 4 days after its vessel was hit by a mine and did not present any evidence concerning these mines, proves that the U.S. claim is a lie.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador added: The U.S. aggression is an absolute and thorough violation of the fifth clause of Resolution No 598 of the UN Security Council and has thus rejected this resolution out of hand. He pointed to the speech made by Reagan yesterday concerning the U.S. aggression and the emphasis placed by the U.S. President at the end of his remarks, and said: The United States desires to normalize relations with the Islamic Republic, and the United States is prepared for this; yet what America wants is to use intimidation and force to compel the most powerful and important country in the region, that is, the Islamic Republic, to normalize its relations with the United States and has resorted to the most ridiculous means toward this end.

Afterward, he discussed direct U.S. involvement in Iraq's military operations, which took place recently, and said: This action, more than anything else, demonstrates Iraq's military weakness and disintegration, and proves that the flood of logistic, intelligence, and military assistance can no longer save the Iraqi regime from collapse. He added: The present U.S. Government plans to impose on the U.S. public the previously tested Vietnam alternative as a new alternative in the Middle East. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not give this option a chance.

Referring to the U.S. ruling clique's accusations of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Terrorism means threatening and attacking civilian people for military and political gains. On the basis of this meaning, the United States has turned into the biggest supporter of international terrorism on a large scale by its continuous backing in the Security Council of Iraq's indiscriminate attacks on residential areas.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, London.

Envoy to London Warns of Retaliation 'Options'

LD201607 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 20, IRNA—Washington's provocative attacks against Iranian oil installations were compared by Iran's charge d'affaires in London with other desperate crimes committed by the Iraqi regime as it continues to sustain defeats on the battlefield.

Medhi Akhundzadeh said here Tuesday that the mood in Baghdad is "desperate" and had led the Iraqi regime to restart its so-called war against Iranian cities and resort to chemical weapons once again, especially at Halabjah, where thousands of its own citizens were killed and maimed.

"The provocative action by the United States was intended to detract attention from defeats Iraq has sustained," he said adding, it was "totally unjustified against all international rules and conventions."

The envoy was speaking on BBC Television in the wake of Monday's unprovoked U.S. attacks on Iran's installations and said, by doing so the Americans had opened a new axis so that they can directly involve themselves in Iraq's war against Islamic Iran.

"The Americans have come out to secure and save the regime in Baghdad," he said and dismissed the excuse offered by Washington that it had been initiated in any way by Iran. Tehran sought security and safety in the Persian Gulf, he noted.

Akhundzadeh believed that the United States had resorted to a "pretext" against Iran, where there was no independent confirmation, and pointed out that on the previous day U.S. forces used Kuwait's Bubiyan Island to help Iraqi forces attack Al-Faw but chose not to broadcast it.

He saluted the Iranians who took part in encountering America's challenges and warned Washington that the Iranian Muslims had a "wide range of options" for retaliations against any threats from the new Baghdad-Kuwait-Washington axis that had emerged to confront Islamic Iran.

Navy Commander Details 'Unprecedented' Battle

NC210707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] During a news conference on the deck of the heroic destroyer "Sabalan," Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic's Navy, described the battle fought by our Navy as unprecedented in the history of naval warfare. He pointed out: During this battle, the brave men of our Navy answered the call of the imam of the ummah and fought America to their last drop of blood and their last bullet. The Navy commander added: The battle was waged by the missile-launcher "Jowshan" in the central area, near the Nasr and Salman platforms, by the destroyer "Sahand" in the Strait of Hormuz, and by the destroyer "Sabalan" in the Strait of Hormuz. It took place within an area of 200 nautical miles. The "Jowshan" began the battle when it was threatened simultaneously by U.S. planes and by the U.S. Navy. During this unequal battle, the enemy fired five or six missiles at this ship and maliciously attacked its personnel who had jumped into the sea, thus martyring several of them.

Commodore Malekzadegan went on to say: The "Sabalan" confronted a number of U.S. planes of the latest type within the Strait of Hormuz. Initially, it neutralized all the attacks by the aircraft from a close distance and directed heavy fire at them. The enemy, who had lost any hope of succeeding in these attacks, attacked the heroic "Sabalan" from a distance of 80 miles with laser bombs. Minor damages were inflicted on this ship, and we hope that it will be repaired as soon as possible so that it can return to the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. He pointed out: The aggressive U.S. forces, having met with resistance from the fighters of Islam in the sea, retreated from the area after their ignoble attempts. Now we do not see the enemy's units in the region.

The Navy commander then referred to the U.S. objectives and said: With these operations, the United States intended to render our Navy inoperable; the extent of the operational theater is a proof of this. If these attacks had not been resisted, undoubtedly the United States would have started fresh attacks.

The same report adds that the commander of the first naval area also attended this interview. Referring to the special features of this battle, he said: We were confronting a superpower, well aware of its strength. Therefore, we were fully aware of what we were doing when we entered into battle with it. The events of this battle bore witness to the extent of our fighters' selflessness. Referring to the bravery of the Navy fighters, he said: Our sailors are determined to avenge the blood of their martyrs.

Musavi Sees End to War If Saddam Regime Ousted

LD210131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The new Italian ambassador in Tehran met Prime Minister Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi on Tuesday afternoon. During the meeting the new Italian ambassador, noting the current bilateral relations, expressed his country's desire to expand and strengthen current ties. Mr Musavi in turn reviewed the present grounds for bilateral cooperation and noted the need to use such opportunities.

The prime minister referred to the war imposed by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran: This war will not end except through the implementation of justice and punishment of the aggressor. The region will not see peace or tranquillity as long as the Zionist Iraqi regime exists. Our nation will not stop its struggle and resistance until justice has been established.

Musavi Says U.S. Navy Increases 'Holy Hatred'

LD210149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] In today's cabinet session, a report about the epic battle of the warriors of the Navy and Army of Islam with the warships of the criminal United States was delivered to the Council of Ministers and the government, which, while honoring the memory of the martyrs of this unequal encounter, reaffirmed their readiness to deepen the struggle against the aggressor United States.

During the session, foreign reserves policies and procedures for 1367 [Islamic year ending 20 March 1989] were discussed and some eight articles of the bill on allocation of foreign reserves were approved by the cabinet.

Supplying the entire needs of the imposed war, using all domestic facilities, as well as ensuring the minimum healthcare needs of the revolutionary society in continuation of moves and actions to correct economic [words indistinct] and a reduction of reliance on oil, as well as the maintenance and supply of the needs of the agriculture sector and natural resources are among the articles that were approved during Wednesday's cabinet session.

At the conclusion of the session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: The United States has a right to hold a grudge against the Islamic Revolution, as we destroyed the U.S. base in Iran and the Islamic Revolution is endangering all U.S. interests in the region. The United States will suffer the response to its mischief and should realize that any one of these criminal actions causes direct blows against its long-term presence in the Persian Gulf. Such actions will fan the fire of our holy hatred for the criminal regime of the United States. The people of Iran will not forget the pure blood spilled by the mercenary U.S. militarists in the Persian Gulf.

Musavi Interviewed on Missile Capability

LD162045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Musavi, following his inspection of an IRGC missile complex, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, you have just inspected one of the IRGC's missile industrial centers. Can you tell us how they are progressing, and in general how you found the activities in this center?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. These activities are equal to all the activities of our fighters at the fronts. They are similar because their aim is the same as that of our fighters. They are equal because they accomplish things here, with sincerity, hard work, and self-sacrifice, that we thought impossible 2-3 years ago. It was the same when our brothers entered the Halabjah plain or crossed the Shatt al-'Arab, proving that it is possible. Such scenes and progress have been proved possible for our nation.

There has been a great deal of progress here. In fact, what is happening here is a response to the Saddam regime. Saddam's regime should know that his savage behavior will not affect us, that he will receive a strong response

from us. If the world arrogance thinks that by encouraging Saddam in these attacks they will see the slightest sign of weakness in us regarding an imposed peace or forcing conditions on us, they are completely wrong. Our nation will stand to the end; it will answer force with force. Owing to our justice-seeking aims, our nation will *stand to the end. A part of this steadfastness is seen in* the work of the brothers here. The importance of their work lies in the fact that we receive no help from the world. These brothers know that Saddam's missiles are taken apart here and the parts used.

Based on this our brothers are doing some new work. They are using every part so that they can make progress without relying on big powers, who give us nothing. Thank God we have made progress, that is, for us to have missiles is necessary. It may happen in 15 days, a month, 2 months, whenever. That is definite. This is our reply to Saddam's regime. It seems that Saddam only understands the language of force. Our nation has realized this. The most valuable experience in the war of the cities for our nation is that our nation realized whether it could or could not make peace with this person, this system, this evil, and this rough nature as it were, the puppet. Could a regime that kills its own people so tragically make peace with the Islamic Republic when it is wounded?

Naturally, we have to stand to the end. We must crush him. We must give a bitter reply to every act of aggression he commits until the Saddam regime is destroyed. That is our only answer.

As I have said, this is a part of the activities on a nationwide level toward this reply. I must thank all the experts and Mr Rafiqdust. This is great work. There is a great movement in the defense sector whose effects are not solely directed at defense. When you visit this missile center, you will see our brothers making progress in various areas such as polymers, alloys, electronics, manufacturing machinery, and other sensitive equipment, which will no doubt have an effect on all our industrial and manufacturing sectors. The aims here are defensive, but the effects are widespread. [passage omitted]

Musavi Sends Message to Aerodynamics Seminar

LD162050 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a message to a seminar on aerodynamics and flight dynamics which opened here Saturday, stressed that holding of such seminars results in breaking the barriers of cultural underestimation and inferiority complex.

The message said when technology is in the hands of a pious human being, it is a means for achieving lofty Islamic ideals, but when it is controlled by satanic forces it becomes a destructive instrument of colonialism, fleecing oppressed nations and beefing up satanic values and tyrannical regimes.

Third World nations are virtually barred from having access to sophisticated technologies, it emphasised adding, there is a feeling of guilt and inferiority among these nations concerning the issue.

"Such seminars provide engineers with new horizons to explore," said the premier, noting that Iranian engineers and people are now able to march forward in any field of their choice.

The two-day seminar is being sponsored by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) with the country's scientific and military forces in attendance.

Khamene'i Praises Inaugural Helicopter Flight

LD181302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Report on interview with President 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, during the ceremony marking the inaugural flight of the first helicopter made in the Islamic Republic by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i, you have inspected the first helicopter built in Iran. Would you please tell us how you assess the efforts of Iranian experts in making this industry self-sufficient?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fortunately, with the passing of each day in the constructive and bloodstained heroic history of our nation, our people take another step toward self-sufficiency, and scientific and practical perfection. [passage omitted]

Our esteemed defense minister, Jalali, flew in this helicopter as a sign of our complete faith in the helicopter. If we had not completely trusted the helicopter we would not have allowed our minister to fly in it. This shows it is built very well and is very strong. God willing, they will start building more helicopters and repair the ones we have. We should become self-sufficient. With the position that world arrogance has adopted toward our revolution and nation, we must become self-sufficient.

[Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i, today is Army Day. Would you please assess what the Army has done since the revolution?

[Khamene'i] It is only fair to say that what our Armed Forces have done, particularly during the imposed war and since the revolution, has been very good. It should be noted that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic do not enjoy the same facilities that its aggressive enemy enjoys, that is, those available to the superpowers. [passage omitted]

We believe that the capabilities of the Armed Forces, both their battle capability and their progress toward revolutionary objectives and the ultimate revolutionary character, can improve their performance and, God willing, they will make further progress.

Briefed on Helicopter Manufacture

LD182022 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The first Iranian-made helicopter 'Shabaviz' took to the capital's sky during President 'Ali Khamene'i's visit to the Iran chopper maintenance and overhauling industries, on the occasion of Army Day, today morning.

An official for the helicopter industries said some 1,400 Americans were fired from the complex following the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and the Iranian experts effortlessly took charge from the on striving for the country's self-sufficiency.

The complex, he said, shoulders the responsibility of providing maintenance for eight different types of copters and 13 models. The number of copters overhauled last year reached 61, from a modest 10 eight years ago.

At the meeting also attended by commanders of air, naval and Ground Forces, the president was informed on the manufacture of the first Iranian-made copter. More than 6,200 locally made parts and 4,000 meters of special wires went into the manufacture of the helicopter, the president was told.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) appreciated the army's efforts, garlanding minister of defence, director of military industries, director of the copter complex and other Iranian experts.

At the end of his visit, the SDC head said in an interview that the Islamic Republic boasts one of the biggest copter fleets in the world and called for mass production of Iranian-made choppers.

Asked on the so-called 'war of cities', the president said Iraqi crimes will receive due response at the war fronts. Iran will also continue pounding economic and military centers of the Iraqi capital and other cities as part of deterrent measures, he added.

Pointing to Iran's self-sufficiency, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i described such inventions and innovations as revitalization of the Islamic Republic.

Khamene'i on Anti-U.S. Moves in Latin America

LD190519 Tehran IRNA in English 1211 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—President Khamene'i received Iran's ambassador to Colombia Mir 'Ali Asghar al-Musavi, here Monday. Asghar al-Musavi presented a report to the president on Iran-Columbia ties and the situation in Central America.

In response, Khamene'i called for the expansion of Tehran-Bogota relations and emphasized that attention should be focused on anti-U.S. movements in the region.

Construction Jihad Condemns U.S. Attacks

LD191327 Tehran IRNA in English 1308 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Construction Jihad of Tehran Province condemned U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and announced Tuesday that its forces were prepared to give an appropriate response to the satanic moves in the Iraqi-imposed war fronts.

The statement was released following a call by the Supreme Council of War Support after the U.S. attack on two oil platforms in the Persian Gulf Monday.

All forces of Construction Jihad are ready to actively take part in the Iraqi-imposed war fronts as they have already done by digging embankments and necessary fortifications for Muslim combatants.

It said the concerted scheme of the U.S., Kuwait and Iraqi forces in raiding oil platforms and the U.S.-Iraqi movements to attack Al-Faw was another proof of the humble situation of Iraqi forces in fighting Muslim combatants, which cannot face Iranian forces unless they are supported by foreign armed forces. The relief unit of Iran's Red Crescent also invited all committed skilled Iranian Muslims as well as drivers of heavy vehicles and ambulances to aid Muslim combatants by going to war fronts.

Islamic Organization Condemns U.S. Attack

LD201754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] In connection with the U.S. air and sea attack on Iran's defenseless oil platforms, the Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula issued a statement referring to this action as a new U.S. aggression against the Muslim nations and the Islamic Revolution and strongly condemned it. The statement says: The new U.S. aggression, which was launched simultaneously with the renewed deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi Zionist regime and with the assistance and cooperation of Kuwait's hireling rulers—particularly by

placing Bubiyan Island at the disposal of the Ba'thist and U.S. forces—made more clear the degree of cooperation existing among these three countries.

The statement, referring to the obstruction of the regime ruling over Hijaz over the Iranian pilgrims' trip to Mecca, expressed overall support for Iran and praised the steadfastness of the Muslim people of Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. The Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula, in its statement, while paying tribute to the Muslim people of Iran for their courage in the struggle against conspiracies of the arrogant powers, announced: The Muslim people of Iran and other regional Muslim nations will, through their resistance and steadfastness, defeat the arrogant powers' regional conspiracies and will smash U.S. interests and the crowns and thrones of the puppet governments ruling over the superficially Islamic states.

Commentary Assails Hajj Restrictions

LD201458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Station commentary: "The Opposition of the Al Sa'ud Family to Sending 150,000 Iranian Pilgrims on Pilgrimage"]

[Text] At a time when the Hajj, Endowments, and Charitable Affairs Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran is busy organizing the departure of 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to the holy house of God, Al Sa'ud family officials, by adopting an irresponsible position, insist that only 45,000 Iranian pilgrims will be given permission to travel there to take part in this year's hajj. Moreover, that group will under no circumstances be allowed to take part in marches and demonstrations against the United States and Israel.

According to the representative of the imam and the supervisor of the Hajj, Endowments, and Charitable Affairs Organization, the adoption of such positions clearly reveals a collusion between the extensive efforts of the United States and Arab reactionaries to force a compromise on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The new policy of the Al Sa'ud family in reducing the number of Iranian pilgrims and denying them permission to engage in political activities and take part in marches has been announced at a time when the issue of Palestine and the struggles against the Zionist regime occupying Jerusalem and its supporters have become the main issue in the world of Islam, and when the ever-growing Islamic movement of the wronged Palestinian people has assumed new dimensions.

At a time when the Al Sa'ud regime, by reducing the number of Iranian pilgrims on the eve of the great religio-political hajj congress, is trying to eliminate the critical and political dimensions of the hajj in keeping with the U.S. conspiracy of the bloody incident of Mecca, the Palestinian Muslims are in need of the comprehensive support of all Muslims, particularly the political support of Muslims expressed in the unity and disavowal march of the Muslims in Mecca. However, due to their subservience, the Hijaz rulers do not want to allow the suppressed voice of the Palestinians to reach the ears of Muslims around the world. That regime's goal is to fight against the political dimensions of the hajj and to prevent the discussion of the problems of Muslims in the great Islamic hajj congress.

However, despite the well-known goals of the colonialists and world arrogance of separating religion from politics, the political dimension of the religio-political hajj ritual can never be separated from its religious significance. Therefore, as the imam of the ummah graciously said: It is impossible for the pilgrims to go on pilgrimage and not take part in demonstrations against world arrogance. Disavowal of the infidels is one of the political duties of the hajj, and without it there is no hajj. On that basis, this year the pilgrims will act according to their duty, which is to express disavowal of infidels, the United States, and Israel.

In fact, with its opposition to sending pilgrims to the holy house of God and opposition to the political dimensions of the marches by pilgrims—mainly to express their beliefs—and its disavowal of Muslims, the Al Sa'ud family not only ignores the interests of Muslims, but even confronts all Muslims of the world. At a time when the government of Hijaz is preventing Iranian pilgrims from carrying out their hajj, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on world Muslims to engage in extensive protests against the Saudi regime, which has now become an auxiliary arm of the United states inside the heart of the Islamic land of the oppressed people of the world.

At the moment, the administration of the holy house of God is one of the most important issues and preoccupations of the world of Islam. Moreover, the ill-judged measures taken by the Al Sa'ud family regarding the hajj rituals, and the insult that has been revealed by that regime against the holy house of God have created great anxiety among world Muslims about the future of the hajj and greater insults to Islamic sanctities. Therefore, Muslims now regard it as their Islamic duty not to refrain from any effort to maintain the respect of the hajj and to administer it on the basis of Islamic principles.

On this basis, as has always been emphasized by officials in our country, Saudi officials are not worthy of administering the holy houses of God. In the view of Iran and world Muslims, the administeration of those holy places should be placed under the control of a delegation of Muslim ulema. To achieve this great result, leading ulema from various Islamic sects should discuss the details of this matter in their gatherings. As was pointed out earlier, this issue is one of the most important and urgent Islamic issues and the success of the maintenance of the sanctity of holy houses of God depends on the success of the communal endeavor of the Muslim community.

PRC Official Cited on U.S. Attack, Toxic Gas

LD201745 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador in Beijing Ala-ed Din Borujerdi conferred with China's deputy foreign minister for political affairs on Tehran-Beijing relations, recent U.S. attacks on Iranian oil rigs in the Persian Gulf, and crimes committed by the Iraqi regime.

The Chinese official pointing that his country is very sensitive towards recent U.S. military moves in the Persian Gulf and its clashes with Iran, stressed China opposes military intervention of big powers in the Persian Gulf.

On Iraqi redeployment of chemical weapons, the Chinese official said his country condemns usage of toxic gases. "If we do not name in our official announcements the party which has utilised the chemical weapons, it is simply because everybody knows who had deployed these weapons," he noted. He also expressed hope Tehran-Beijing relations would further expand.

Syrian Oil Minister Arrives in Tehran 15 Apr

LD151444 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Syria's Minister of Oil Antonios Habib arrived here Friday at the head of a ranking oil delegation and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. This is Habib's first visit to Tehran as Syria's oil minister after the reshuffle in the Syrian cabinet in November 1987.

In Tehran, Habib said he is here to further consolidate economic ties between Iran and Syria, especially in oil.

The Syrian minister condemned deployment of chemical weapons and said Syria opposes use of toxic gases as a war operation. He pointed out that Syria's believes a war between two Muslim countries is not to the benefit of Arab nations or Iran.

He condemned bombardment of cities and civilian areas and expressed hope that the war would end and that the Islamic Republic as a supporter of Palestinians' ideals would deploy her army in the struggle against the Zionist entity.

First Round of Oil Talks Noted

JN161614 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, 16 Apr (SANA)—The first round of petroleum talks opened here this morning between Dr Antonios Habib, Syria's minister of oil and mineral resources, and Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iran's petroleum minister, with other officials on both sides in attendance. Aqazadeh praised the existing bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly oil. He stressed Iran's determination to promote Syria's firm stand against imperialist and Zionist plots.

Dr Habib emphasized Syria's concern to further consolidate cooperation with Iran in the common interests of the friendly countries.

The sides will hold further talks on renewal of the protocol of oil cooperation.

Meets With Aqazadeh 16 Apr

LD162048 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Minister of oil and mineral resources of Syria, Antonios Habib, currently heading a delegation to Tehran, met Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday.

In the meeting, the Syrian minister reiterating Damascus' position on the Iraqi imposed war, stressed the unchanging stand of the Syrian people and government in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The Iraq-Iran war does not constitute the present crisis in the Persian Gulf, rather the two peoples' (Iranian and Iraqis) war against Saddam is the major issue", he said.

"We believe that Iraq has imposed the war to the advantage of Zionism, and against both Iranian and Iraqi peoples," elaborated the Syrian minister, noting that "Iranians are only defending against the Iraqi regime", he added.

In response Aqazadeh assured of Islamic Iran's firm support to Syria against "imperialism and Zionism".

The two ministers also discussed protocols related to Iran's oil aid to Syria including the sale of further crude at a special rate.

Aqazadeh told Habib that Iran has the potential to promptly answer Damascus' requests concerning the oil needed for Syrian refineries.

At the end of the meeting Antonios Habib, invited Aqazadeh to visit Syria. The Iranian minister accepting the invitation said he would visit Damascus a suitable time.

Mineral Cooperation Discussed

LD171745 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Oil and Minister Resources Antonios Habib, in a meeting with Iranian minister of mines and metals, Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi here Sunday, supported Iran's stands on the Iraqi imposed war. "The Iraqi people have never

approved the war and are indeed planning to overthrow their atrocious and despotic ruler who is simply devastating both the Iranian and Iraqi peoples," he added.

"We ought to distinguish between Arab reactionary rulers and the Arab people, because they have a grudge even against the Arab people," he said stressing that the struggle against all reactionaries should continue.

In the meeting, Habib announced his government's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the field of phosphate.

In response Ayatollahi reflecting on mineral exploration in Iran announced readiness to exchange views with Syria for establishing joint a phosphate fertilizer plant. He also pointed out that Iran will set up a gold processing plant by the end of the spring.

Condemns U.S. Aggression

LD191315 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Visiting Syrian Oil Minister Antonios Habib commenting on the recent U.S. aggressive moves against the Islamic Republic said "this is a dangerous innovation which should be condemned by all Muslim states." The Syrian official made the remark in his meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Tuesday.

Syria believes the Islamic Republic will emerge victorious, Habib said announcing his country's stance on the aggressive measures of "great Satan" against the Muslim combatants and Iranian oil installations.

Adverting to Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian areas, the Syrian minister said the Iraqi regime invaded the Islamic revolution in a bid to safeguard imperialist and Zionist interests. "We hope the imposed war would end in your regional countries' favour," he told Musavi.

In response, the Iranian premier lauding Syria's role in thwarting plots hatched by regional reactionaries for compromising with the Zionist regime, said the Syria front also the front line for all Muslim countries in the fight against Zionism. "We feel duty bound to stand beside you," Musavi added.

Referring to recent aggressive acts of the Great Satan, Musavi said such clashes with the U.S. will help boost the revolutionary morale of the Muslim Iranian people. The U.S. will never feel secure in the region now that the Islamic revolution has come in existence, the prime minister pointed out.

The Syrian minister arrived here Friday at the head of a delegation.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

'Several' Killed in Tehran

LD201724 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded in an Iraqi missile-attack on residential areas in Tehran this evening. Some houses were also damaged in the enemy missile attack.

Communique No 3,178

LD201733 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed economic and military centers in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil at 06:30 hours local time (03:00 GMT) Wednesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy, said a military communique here today.

All fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the bombing mission, said Communique Number 3178 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces.

Iranian long-range artillery pounded and inflicted heavy losses on the eco-military centers in the Iraqi cities and towns of Khanaqin, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Banmil, Naft Khaneh, Mandali, Querehtu, Dar al-Salam, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Basra and Qa'lah Dizah and also on Dukan Dam installations, Chuman Mostafa, Qasr and Saida Hamadan [name as received] garrisons yesterday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Tuesday during which several Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and an enemy munitions dump, five vehicles and some bunkers and observation posts were destroyed.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi engineering units attempting to set up barricades in Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar, Western sector, Tuesday destroyed an enemy loader.

In Panjwin and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and western fronts, heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants silenced Iraqi tank fire yesterday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy troops.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy vehicle, a munitions dump and seven bunkers and gun emplacements destroyed in parts of the Southern and Western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Missiles Hit Tehran, Esfahan

LD202044 Tehran IRNA in English 2040 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Residential areas in Tehran, Esfahan and Shiraz were hit by Iraqi missiles Wednesday night. A number of Iranians were martyred and wounded and several houses, cars and shops as well as one mosque were damaged in the enemy attacks.

Iraqi Missile Attack on Qom

LD202105 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Qom, April 21, IRNA—Civilian quarters in the holy city of Qom were subjected to Iraqi missile attacks at 23:24 hours Tehran time (19:54 GMT) Wednesday. A number of civilians were martyred and wounded and some material damage was inflicted. [passage omitted]

Communique No 3,179

LD211550 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged throughout the battlefronts Wednesday as a result of which a number of Iraqi forces were killed and wounded, said a Joint Staff communique here today. Several enemy gun-emplacements were also destroyed by the Muslim combatants' heavy fire, it added.

Communique Number 3179 said that Iranian patrol units killed a group of enemy soldiers in the northwestern operational front Wednesday, and discovered a considerable number of weapons and ammunitions as well as a wireless set.

An enemy patrol group was ambushed in the western fronts yesterday and forced to flee with some casualties.

Iraqi tank units sustained damage when Iranian Muslim combatants subjected them to their heavy fire in Helaleh, Panjwin, Chazabeh and Eynkhosh, Wednesday.

Also on Wednesday, an enemy patrol group attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in the Nahr 'Anbar sector, was forced to flee by the accurate fire of the Muslim combatants.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces killed some Iraqi troops destroying several enemy bunkers, concluded the communique.

The 3179th communique also said that the Iranian naval forces effectively controlled movements of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman during Wednesday.

Iraqi Kurds Attack Kirkuk Post

LD201936 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Scores of Iraqi forces were killed and some others wounded when Iraqi mujahidin captured and set fire to Hezar-Kani Garrison in Kirkuk Province over the last weekend.

According to Ramadan Headquarters, forces of Badr-9 Division destroyed all military installations in the garrison, seized some light and semi-heavy weapons intact and returned to bases safely. The operations lasted three days, it said.

Meanwhile, the headquarters announced that Iraq's Kurdish Hizbollah peshmergas killed 12 Iraqi troops destroying two enemy bases in Shirvan and Chameh-Dar in Irbil Province during two separate operations. The peshmerga forces also seized some weapons intact in the hit-and-run operations.

More Troops Sent to Fronts

NC210730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that following the call by the Supreme Council for War Support to our country's brave young men to go to the battlefields to confront the mischiefs by the world-devouring United States and the infidel Saddamists, a special convoy of the fighters of the Seyyed ol-Shohada forces left for the operational theaters from Malayer after an auspicious ceremony. Also yesterday afternoon a group of Basiji fighters left for the battlefronts from Hamadan in the form of a special Seyyed ol-Shohada convoy.

Yesterday afternoon, a large number of students from Ferdowsi University and Mashhad's University of Medical Sciences left for the fronts from Mashhad, within the framework of the extraordinary dispatch of fighters of the Abu 'Abdallah al-Husayn convoy. The same report states that in continuation of the dispatch of popular forces to the fronts, more groups of Basiji volunteers of the Sabzevar and Darreh Gaz IRGC also left for the battlefields yesterday.

The second special convoy of the fighters of Imam Husayn, A.S., consisting of a large number of fresh Basiji forces, as well as many trained and educational forces, departed from Shahrud yesterday afternoon for the battlefronts of good against evil. They were zealously seen off by the martyr-nurturing people of Shahrud.

Tehran Cites AP on Missile Attack on Kuwait

LD202246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] A surface-to-surface missile hit a desert region close to Kuwaiti oil fields at 0315 today. According to an AP report, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense, confirming

this report, stated: The missile hit close to an oil field where the U.S. company, Getty Oil, operates. The area is close to the Kuwaiti Hijaz border, and Kuwait and the Hijaz regime jointly own the oil fields of the region, which is officially supposed to be a neutral zone.

Pakistan

Further Details on Junejo Address to Parliament

BK201506 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 20 (AFP)—Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo Wednesday expressed his opposition to continued Soviet military aid to Kabul and reminded Moscow of its role in creating a "congenial atmosphere" in Afghanistan.

"It was not reasonable for the Soviets to continue to arm the Najibullah regime in Kabul, while mujahidin be deprived of their military supplies," he said, winding up a two-day parliamentary debate on the Afghan peace accord. "If the Soviets were sincere they ought to lend support in the creation of a congenial atmosphere" in Afghanistan so that the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan could return with dignity and honour, Mr. Junejo added.

His remarks followed reports from Western diplomats here that fresh supplies were continuing to arrive in Kabul despite Thursday's Geneva accords. Under the agreement signed by Kabul and Islamabad and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington, the Soviet Union will start a nine-month pull-out of its estimated 115,000 troops in Afghanistan in mid-May.

Moscow and Washington agreed among themselves that they would stop intervening in Afghanistan. If the Soviet Union continued to aid the Kabul regime militarily, the United States would continue to arm the Afghan rebels. Though Parliament generally welcomed the accord, many MP's criticized the U.S.-Soviet "symmetry" pact and slammed Islamabad for dropping its demand for a transitional government in Kabul to oversee the Soviet pull-out.

Mr. Junejo said the U.N.-brokered Geneva accord was not perfect, but no better agreement could have been achieved under the circumstances. He said the Soviet Union had agreed to assist in the formation of a broad-based transitional government through U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, who signed the accord, said Pakistan had expressed its "reservations" about the symmetry clause. "Pakistan has told both the guarantors that it would formulate its own policies and viewpoint on this issue whenever it felt it necessary," he said. "No power on earth could stop the mujahidin and the Afghan people to get their due right to govern their country," he told Parliament.

In Quetta, Afghan rebel sources said Wednesday the mujahidin had handed over to Soviet authorities a list of 1,000 Kabul officials and ruling party members who they said should leave with the Soviet troops. The rebels warned that after the creation of a mujahidin government in Kabul these officials and members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan would not be spared, the sources said.

The list was recently delivered to Soviet officials by representatives of the seven-party guerrilla alliance based in Pakistan during a meeting in West Germany, they said. The mujahidin said they would grant "general amnesty" to all those who had supported the communist regime to avert bloodshed, the sources said.

Discusses Rawalpindi Blast

BK210855 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said the area around Ojri Camp is now safe and there is no danger to life and property to the people. He was initiating discussion on the Ojri Camp incident in the joint sitting of Parliament this morning. He assured that all resources at the disposal of the government have been mobilized to repair the damage and to ensure relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. He said soon after his dash from Karachi to Rawalpindi, he visited the hospitals along with the acting president, Mr Ghulam Isnaq Khan, to enquire about the injured. He said he immediately ordered setting up of technical committee to submit its report within 10 days. The next day, the federal cabinet held its session and a cabinet subcommittee was constituted to which the technical committee would submit its report. The cabinet subcommittee headed by the federal minister for communications, Mr Aslam Khan Khattak, along with its suggestions, would submit the report to the cabinet within 7 days.

He saluted the people for showing exemplary order and discipline in the hour of trial. The prime minister assured Parliament amid thumping of desks that the government would neither cover up the facts of the incident, whether it was an accident, sabotage, or negligence, nor would it protect any one. The prime minister said there can be no real compensation to the loss of human life. As a gesture of sharing the grief, however, some material relief is provided to the bereaved families under a policy of the government. Eighty percent of such compensation has been paid to the bereaved families. One hundred and three persons have died as a result of the incident. Some 1,250 to 1,300 persons have been injured and of them, 400 were admitted to hospitals. There were 35 cases of burns and 26 cases of amputation.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said special instructions have been given for speedy rehabilitation of such persons, including provision of artificial limbs. Some friendly countries have offered medical assistance. Serious cases will be sent abroad for treatment and some have already gone. He said properties worth crores of

rupees have been damaged. Sixty percent of the damaged property has been compensated and instructions have gone that the remaining forty percent be compensated in a week. A committee has also been formed headed by State Minister Begum Afsar Raza Qazalbash to look after the education of orphaned children and widows. A comprehensive program will be undertaken for the rehabilitation of orphans, widows, and mustahaqeen [poor people deserving assistance]. The discussion was initiated on a motion by the minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud, that the situation arising out of the tragic incident at Ojri Camp be discussed.

Iranian Official Meets With Ziaul Haq, Junejo

LD210902 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 21, IRNA—A senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official held separate meetings with Pakistani president and premier Wednesday and handed them messages from their Iranian counterparts. In his meeting with President Ziaul Haq, Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Javad Mansuri submitted a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i. He also expressed Iran's deep regret over the recent bomb blasts at Pakistan's munitions depots which caused hundreds of casualties. The Pakistani president in response regretted Monday's U.S. attacks on Iran's oil rigs in the Persian Gulf. He also said his country was among the first condemning the use of chemical weapons.

In another meeting with Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Iranian official handed him a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. The Pakistani premier also expressed grave concern over the recent developments in the Persian Gulf. Mansuri told Junejo that Islamic states must take a decisive stance again Washington's recent adventurism so that it would not dare to attack any other Muslim country.

Regional developments, the Iraq-Iran war, the Afghanistan issue and Washington-Baghdad alliance were among other issues discussed between Mansuri and the Pakistani president and premier. Mansuri also held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani and Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar Wednesday and discussed issues of mutual interest. Mansuri heading a delegation arrived here early this week.

Sri Lanka

LTTE in Batticaloa Said Ready To Surrender

BK211005 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 13 Apr 88 p 8

[Text] Two important LTTE commanders from Batticaloa District have said that the LTTE is ready to lay down arms and surrender. Both of them are in the prisons of the IPKF [in Sri Lanka]. In their appeal to the officers of the IPKF, the two LTTE commanders, Sithar and Dileep, have expressed their desire to speak about it to their commander, Kittu, in Madras. They have requested the IPKF officers to arrange for it.

They have further said the Tigers are not in a position to continue their fight in Batticaloa. Therefore, it is better to surrender. We want to inform this to our leader Prabhakaran through Kittu.

Meanwhile, 100 Tigers were arrested and a large quantity of arms seized in the IPKF operations yesterday.

Editorial Questions Role of Indian Army

BK201355 Colombo SUN in English 6 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Indian Army's Track Record"]

[Text] What exactly is the Indian Army doing in Sri Lanka?

Keeping the peace or merely serving to prolong the war?

Consider the dismal and shoddy record of this 100,000 strong force occupying an area not more than 7,000 square miles, in the last eight months that they have been here, ostensibly upon invitation.

During this sorry period the situation in Sri Lanka has gone from bad to worse and violence—that which the Indian Army euphemistically called the Peace Keeping Force, was brought to quell—has increased enormously. The Eastern Province, once relatively under control, has today under the aegis of the Indians become the Tigers' killing fields.

In the last month alone over a hundred innocent Sinhala and Muslim civilians have been slaughtered in cold blood by the LTTE whilst the Indian Army, under whose protection the civilians were, not only stood idle and let happen the massacre of the innocents but even had the audacity to prevent the Sri Lankan troops stationed in those areas from rushing to the scene to offer protection to their countrymen.

Last week in Kalmunai alone more than thirty Muslim civilians were killed by the Tigers some of them shot dead in a mosque, amidst reports that the Indian Army had watched passively, again.

Five months after the Indian Army's offensive against the Tigers in Jaffna, one out of three in the northern peninsula is still a refugee. Those five hundred thousand refugees are today fed and assisted by the Sri Lankan Government and the Ministry of Rehabilitation has announced plans for their early re-settlement.

From Trincomalee, Kalmunai, Kattankudy, Akkaraipatu and other eastern towns, thousands of Sinhala and Muslim people who had lot their homes due to Tiger

violence and Indian indifference, have fled in fear of their lives and are now in refugee camps throughout the country with resettlement only a distant dream.

In these last eight months hundreds of civilians have been killed. Over a million people have been forced to seek the dubious shelter of the refugee camps; and, despite the massive presence of the Indian Army, with no sight of peace, today, only the spectre of a never-ending bloody conflict remains.

That then is the track record of the fourth largest army in the world on a so called "good samaritan" mission in Sri Lanka.

The Indian Government's answer to all these cases of gross inefficiency and willful omissions which have served to exacerbate the crisis has been to change the commander of the area and replace him with another. The replacement of the area commander of Kalmunai following last week's violence there, is the latest.

This strategy of appearing to take administrative action to assuage the feelings of Sri Lankans, giving them the false impression that something is being done by the authorities to prevent such future occurences is nothing new. In fact commanders have been changed following major incidents, but this game of musical chairs has done nothing to lessen the violence.

Until the Indian Government comes clean on the matter and shows by its actions that it's genuine in its professed intent to crush the Tiger and restore peace insteasd of prolonging the agony with its duplicitous approach to Sri Lanka's ethnic trauma, the Indians, our historical foes, will and should always be viewed with distrust.

Athulathmudali Sworn In as Trade Minister
BK201350 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1323 GMT 20 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lanka's Minister of National Security and Deputy Minister of Defense Lalith Athulathmudali was sworn in as minister of trade and shipping before Sri Lanka's President J.R. Jayewardene today.